



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Forest Service

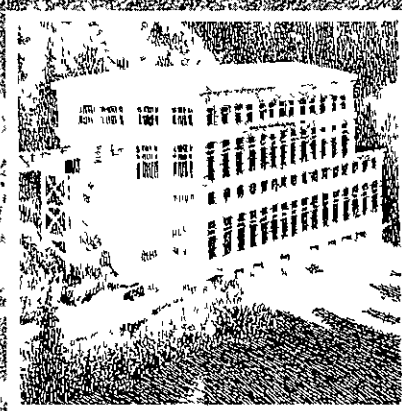
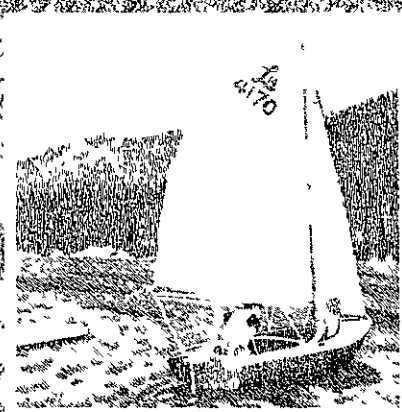
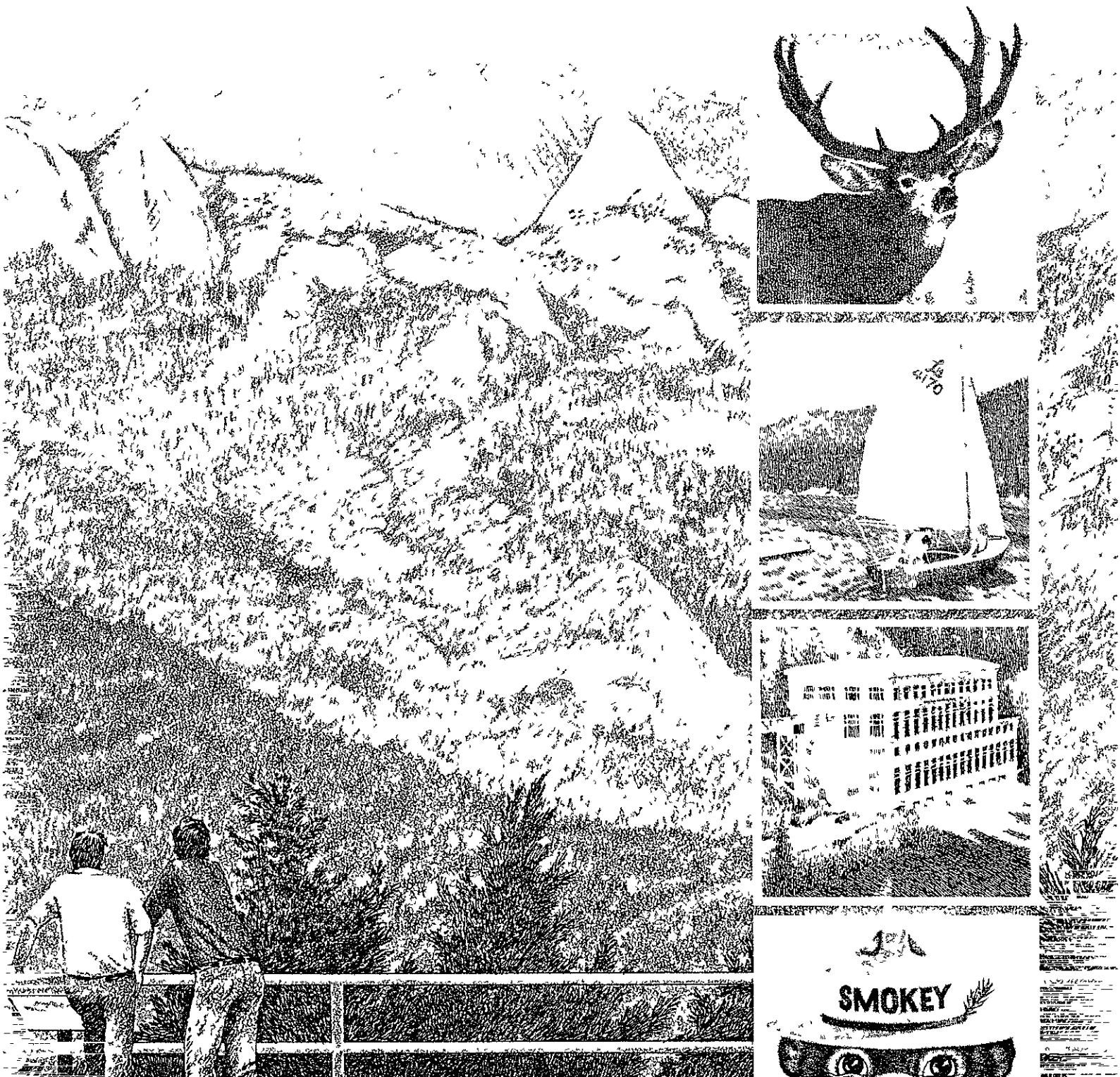
Pacific
Southwest
Region

1991

PUBLIC COMMENTS Appendix T

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Sierra National Forest



TABLES

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7.0 APPENDICES

**T0
APPENDIX T - PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**T.1
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS**

**T 1 1
Introduction**

This Appendix discusses the efforts of Sierra National Forest to involve and consult individuals, agencies, and organizations during the review of the proposed Plan and Draft EIS. It lists those who commented on the draft documents, states each comment, and provides responses to each comment. Preceding the comments, a description of the procedures of involvement and the major issues generated as a result of the process are discussed.

**T 2
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT TO THE DRAFT PLAN AND DEIS**

**T 2 1
Summary of Involvement Procedure**

On September 5, 1986, Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Plan was published in the Federal Register, establishing a public comment period ending December 20, 1986. This period was later extended to January 20, 1987.

An initial mailing of 1,200 sets of the planning documents was made to individuals, organizations, agencies, elected officials, and others known to be interested. Approximately 500 additional sets were distributed. Copies were also available at the Forest Supervisor's headquarters and at the four Ranger District offices.

During the four-month public review period, eight public meetings and two formal public hearings were held. The public meetings were held in Fresno, Merced, Mariposa, Oakhurst, Shaver Lake, Madera, North Fork, and Clovis. The two formal hearings were held in Fresno and Oakhurst. (See Table T.01)

At the public meetings details of the environmental documents were explained and questions were answered by members of the Forest interdisciplinary team and Forest managers. At the public hearings a court reporter was provided to record the public testimony. At the request of a number of organizations, additional small-group presentations were given during the public comment

period. District Rangers and Forest staff also made numerous contacts with individuals and cooperating agencies.

TABLE T.01 - PUBLIC MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
Meetings		
09/30/86	Fresno	110
10/01/86	Merced	27
10/02/86	Mariposa	82
10/07/86	Oakhurst	27
10/08/86	Shaver Lake	32
10/09/86	Madera	19
10/14/86	North Fork	33
10/16/86	Clovis	34
Total	. . . . .	364
Hearings		
11/13/86	Fresno	39
11/18/86	Oakhurst	34
Total	. . . . .	73

**T 2.2
Public Response Analysis Process**

The distribution of the planning documents and the public involvement activities that followed led to 1,870 written responses during the official review period. These responses were compiled and analyzed using a system developed by the Pacific Southwest Region and modified by the Forest. Additional responses that were postmarked after the close of the public comment period were not included in the formal responses analysis, but were reviewed.

All input from the same person or organizations, whether in written or oral form and regardless of when received during the official review period, was treated as a single response. Some responses contained as few as one or two comments, while others as many as 100. Approximately 6,000 comments were processed.

Upon receipt at the Forest Supervisor's office, each written response was date-stamped, assigned an identification number, and coded according to type of respondent, (individual, organization, or agency), number of signatures, and geographic origin (by zip code).

The following tables reflect demographic data.

TABLE T.02 - TYPES OF RESPONDENTS

CATEGORY	RESPONSES
Individual, family (not representing an organization)	1189
Permittee (grazing, special use, summer home)	8
Public agency (local)	11
Public agency (state)	7
Public agency (federal)	5
Elected official (local)	1
Elected official (state)	3
Elected official (federal)	0
Conservation/environmental group (president/chair)	30
Conservation/environmental group (member)	13
Academic group (university, state college)	9
Professional society	3
Civic group	7
Forest-related industry/business (President, owner)	152
Forest-related industry/business (employee)	408
Motorized recreation interest group	3
Nonmotorized recreation interest group	4
Hunting, fishing group	7
Native American	4
Other	6

Approximately 60% of the responses received by the close of the review period originated in the local counties (Fresno, Madera, and Mariposa), 20% came from the San Francisco Bay area, and 10% from Southern California. The following chart shows the origin of the responses

TABLE T.03 - LOCATION OF ORIGIN OF RESPONSES

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION	RESPONSES
Madera, Mariposa, and Fresno Counties	1,122
Central California (excluding the above counties)	115
Northern California	365
Southern California	202
No Zip Code Given	55
Not from California	11

T 2 3

Identification And Analysis Of Subject Matter And Issues

T.2.3.1

Identification Process

In February 1986, a Response Analysis team of Sierra National Forest employees was created. Team members read each letter or hearing testimony for content. A code was formed and applied to each comment within the letter to identify the subject matter of the comment.

The following is a list of the subject codes used.

7T - 2

TABLE T.04 - SUBJECT CODES

CODE / SUBJECT	
000	Alternatives
240	Off-Highway vehicles
010	Air Quality
250	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
020	Bass Lake
260	Roads
040	Economics
270	Social/Political Environment
050	Energy
280	Soils/Geology
060	Facilities
290	Special Areas
070	Fire
300	Special Uses
080	Forest Pest Management
310	Timber
090	Grazing
330	Vegetation
100	Herbicides
340	Visual Resources
110	Historical/Cultural Resources
350	Water
120	Hydroelectric
360	Wild and Scenic Rivers
130	Lands
370	Wilderness Areas
140	Huntington Lake
380	Wildlife
150	Law Enforcement
390	Editorial Comments
160	Minerals/Mining
400	Public Involvement
170	Plan Implementation
410	Planning Process
180	Prescribed Burning
420	Multiple Use Concept
190	Recreation
430	Further Planning Areas
200	Developed Recreation
440	Biological Diversity
220	Dispersed Recreation
450	Other Government Agencies
230	Interpretative Services / Environmental Education

Following the coding of all of the responses, each comment (verbatim or paraphrased) and accompanying codes were entered into a computer data base. The total of all comments and respective codes make up the "public response data base". Members of the Forest management team reviewed all of the comments and responded. The process of responding to the public comments took over 6 months.

T 2 3 2

Identification of Critical Issues

During the analysis process the Forest identified five "critical issues" using the following criteria:

- 1) Was there a major public concern?
- 2) Could the issue be resolved in the Forest Plan?
- 3) Would resolution of the issues affect the fundamental structure of the Plan?

Based on these criteria, the Sierra National Forest Management team identified the following critical issues. The major issues and summary of public input are:

Issue: What should the allowable sale quantity (ASQ) be?

The Forest received a substantial number of comments concerned with timber harvest volumes. Significant numbers of timber industry spokespersons and associated individuals felt that the ASQ of 125 MMBF, as suggested in the Preferred Alternative, was too low to provide the necessary sawtimber to keep local mills operating. They wanted to see an ASQ of 150-160 MMBF, closer to what was proposed in Alternatives C, H, and I. They believe this volume will maintain economic stability in the affected mountain communities, as well as continue to provide employment for mill workers.

There was also an equally substantial number of comments requesting an ASQ at or lower than that proposed in the Preferred Alternative. These respondents were very concerned with the future of the Forest and its ability to maintain a pristine state for future generations to enjoy. They felt the revenue generated from timber sales is not an even exchange for the loss of wildlife habitat and forest and wildlife diversity. They believe the purpose of the Forest is for the enjoyment of the visitors and protection of ecosystems, not for exploitation for monetary gain by a select few.

Issues: Is clearcutting necessary to meet the Forest's long-term timber resource management goals?

Most respondents who commented on clearcutting were opposed to this practice. They felt that the literature supporting clearcutting does not pertain to conditions in the southern Sierra Nevada, and it has unacceptable adverse impacts on water and visual quality. They also felt the Forest Service has not clearly demonstrated the ability to regenerate existing clearcut areas.

Issue: What are the socio-economic consequences of changes in allowable sale quantity (ASQ) on the community of North Fork and surrounding area?

The economic issue was directly tied to the ASQ. By far, this was the most emotional subject of respondents' comments. Most of the comments were from individuals in the timber industry or related business. They felt, if the ASQ was below 150 MMBF, the mill at North Fork would close, businesses that provide service to the mill would be negatively affected, and North Fork would become a ghost town. They believe a lower ASQ would have far-reaching negative effects on the community, over and above the loss of jobs, since revenues from mills help support local schools and county roads.

Issue: How many spotted owl habitat areas (SOHAs) should be established in the Sierra National Forest?

Concern for spotted owl habitat was generated by national organizations. Many of these organizations felt that information about the spotted owl is insufficient to guide the Forest in managing its resources for maintaining a viable population and recommended further studies on the spotted owl.

Those who voiced opposition against further spotted owl habitat areas were mainly allied to the timber industry. They believe the SOHAs will remove too much capable and suitable timber land from timber harvesting zones and the reduced output would impact timber industry workers' jobs and well being.

Issue: How will the Sierra National Forest implement the Forest Plan, given the discrepancy between current budget trends and the budget needed for the Preferred Alternative?

Some public comments expressed concern about the difference between current budget trends and the budget needed to implement the Preferred Alternative and which portions of the Forest Plan would be implemented in light of budget shortfalls. It was not clear to the public what the Forest's priorities would be. There was no discussion in the DEIS that would help the public understand our budget process and its associated constraints. The public was generally concerned that the Forest would implement the production aspects of the Forest Plan and ignore Standards and Guidelines or the Monitoring Plan.

T.2.3.3

Other Subjects of Major Interest

Several other subjects were of major interest to the public in their response to the Draft Plan and DEIS:

Wild and Scenic River - The largest percentage of individual comments received on the Plan were about Wild and Scenic Rivers. Most of the respondents supported the Proposed Plan and its recommendation. The most-cited reason for supporting wild and scenic designation was to preclude dam and hydroelectric developments.

Hydroelectric Development - Most of the responses concerning hydroelectric projects were against the development of new projects on natural streams. There was little opposition to existing hydroelectric developments. Some respondents felt that future energy demands should be met by upgrading existing facilities. Respondents also felt that public lands should not be used to subsidize small hydroelectric developers whose only interest is the tax advantages these projects provide.

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) - Most comments on this subject supported the idea of restricting OHVs to designated routes and trails. Many respondents were worried that funding reductions would restrict enforcement of OHV regulation. A few respondents wanted to see the

Plan address snow compaction on vegetation, noise, and speed problems associated with snowmobiles

Grazing - A majority of the comments related to grazing supported grazing at lower elevations, but were concerned with the effects to surrounding resources. Respondents felt grazing should not be allowed in riparian zones, meadows, wetlands, and anywhere it might prove detrimental to wildlife habitat, especially in wilderness areas. There was some concern over raising the AUMs where it was not proven to be cost effective

Riparian - Almost all respondents concerned with riparian wanted to ensure the protection of riparian areas from grazing, logging, and hydroelectric development. There was some opposition to the 100-foot SMZ, because of a belief that protection in some cases would need to extend beyond 100 feet. Many comments expressed concern that riparian areas were not being returned to their natural state after damage had occurred.

Wildlife - Public comments varied greatly with regard to how the DEIS and Forest Plan dealt with wildlife habitat management. Comments were grouped under the

following headings: wildlife habitat diversity, oldgrowth, spotted owl, and T&E species. Generally, the public comments were favorable to the Forest's treatment of wildlife concerns. However, some recommended additional protection of certain components of the habitat. Both hardwoods and snags were considered as needing additional protection. Standards and Guidelines which specified the amount of oldgrowth habitat to be left was considered inadequate to maintain viability of species associated with this seral stage. Comments on spotted owl management were split between timber and environmental interests. Comments relating to T&E management were in favor of protection of habitat for endangered species.

T 3

LIST OF RESPONDENTS

This section contains a list of all persons and groups providing input to the Draft Plan and DEIS during the official review period. Procedural rules were developed to provide consistency in the use of names and ordering in the following lists. The tables are organized 1) numerically, based on the order received by the Forest and 2) alphabetically

TABLE T.05 - IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS OF RESPONDENTS

<u>NUMBER / NAME</u>	
0001	FERNANDEZ, JOSE
0002	GOLDBLATT, ANDY
0003	MOSS, LARRY
0004	U S DEPT. OF COMMERCE, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
0005	FRIED, JEREMY
0006	KEARNE, CRESSON
0007	ALEX, REBECCA
0008	VOIGHT, GREG
0009	WILLIAMS, CHARLES
0010	KERN, PETER
0011	HAFEN, LOREN
0012	WALLIN, BETTINE
0013	PAGE, JOHN
0014	HUDKINS, JAMES
0015	WEBER, PHYLLIS
0016	JENSEN, BRUCE
0017	GILL, JUNE
0018	SIGG, JACOB
0019	PETERS, JAN
0020	CARVER, LARRY
0021	LIEDER, JOE
0022	DURYEE, MARY
0023	CALDWELL, JOHN
0024	PRESSLEY, PETER
0025	HENDRICKS, ANN
0026	DAESCHLER, TED
0027	LAYMAN, ANNE
0028	RONAYUE, DIANE
0029	SPENCE, PETER
0030	JACKSON, DON
0031	BENNER, MARLENE
0032	VALENINE, RAY
0033	TOPPER, JOE
0034	MC LAUGHLIN, GARY
0035	RONAN, BARBARA
0036	APPELT, KENNETH
0037	SLAGER, THOMAS
0038	REYNOLDS, GERRY
0039	BURON, MRS. & STUDENTS
0040	RANDOLPH, ROBERT
0041	EWING, L B.
0042	KLOSE, STANTON
0043	ENGEL, ELTON D
0044	BOTTAN, KEN
0045	CORSI, BUFF
0046	BOWMAN, ANDREA
0047	TARCIA, DAVID
0048	NAUMANN, GERHARD
0049	RUBY, STEVEN
0050	CLEVINGER, RALPH
0051	KOTTMEIER COMPANY, INC
0052	JOHNSTON, VERNA
0053	JONES, HERBERT
0054	CARR, KATHLEEN
0055	SWANSON, JOHN
0056	MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
0057	LEVERETT, SARAH
0058	FRESNO COUNTY, OFFICE OF EDUC
0059	DE JAGER, BILL
0060	IVERSON, WAYNE
0061	BRAMAN, GARY
0062	BORRESEN, LARS
0063	MENDERSHAUSEN, RALPH
0064	WELBORN, MICHAEL
0065	DAHLGREN, SUSAN
0066	HANSEN, JOHN
0067	INGRAHAM, BLAKE
0068	RITTER, DEBBIE
0069	GLICKMAN, JEFF
0070	AUBERRY UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
0071	KLINE, JANET
0072	FRIANT UNION SCHOOL
0073	QUARMBY, DEBBIE
0074	SCHLOSS, JEFF
0075	PESKIN, AARON
0076	HALL, PATRICIA
0077	COLE, MARYANNE
0078	MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT
0079	FRAZIER, THOMAS
0080	SWINGER AGRICULTURAL
0081	WELLMAN, ROBIN JOY
0082	SUK, TOM
0083	HAMPTON, WALLY
0084	MILLER, JOHN
0085	CALIF. STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY
0086	MARTINEZ, CLARA A.
0087	KUS, JAMES
0087	KUS, JAMES
0088	DOAN, HUY
0089	HORNBACK, KRISTINA
0090	WALKE, LEAH
0091	WAUGH, DAN
0092	WONG, JEAN
0093	GONZALES, ERIC
0094	KENNINGTON, BUCK
0095	HIPP, MATT
0096	GRAY, TRAVIS
0097	LOPEZ, DOMINGO
0098	LOVERIN, BEN
0099	KONG, GARHENG
0100	KEMP VANTE, JENNIFER
0101	VUE, PAO
0102	HENRY, SUZANNE
0103	ROSIN, AARON
0104	HUNT, TYLER
0105	HICKS, HELEN
0106	LEONG, JOEL JAMES
0107	STURGEON, BRIAN
0108	GRILL, TIM
0109	GORHAM, CHRIS
0110	CHEN, SUSAN
0111	CHAVEZ, VICTOR J
0112	VALCARCEL, NATALIE
0113	SCHWARTZ, JASON
0114	HUNG, MILISSA

0115	TAGORE, KULDEEP	0176	BIG CREEK SCHOOL
0116	LOWE, LIZ	0177	SMITH, JENNIFER
0117	GONZALEZ, RUBY	0178	HENRY, NICHOLE
0118	BISHOP, JANINE	0179	ASAMI, JILL
0119	KHURAIKET, DALAL	0180	BRUCE, DUSTIN
0120	PEREIDA, CRYSTAL	0181	WHITE WATER VOYAGES / RIVER EXPLORATION, LTD
0121	MAUDLIN, JODY	0182	COLE, FRANK
0122	WRIGHT, CHRISTOPHER	0183	HICKMAN, JULIA
0123	COOK, GIANNA	0184	U.S. DEPT. OF INTERIOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
0124	HERRERA, LEAH	0185	HARPER, ROSALIND
0125	LOWE, FRANCESCA	0186	KAMISHER, GARY
0126	HARMON, LISA	0187	BURNS, MATHEW
0127	SHVEDOWSKY, ROBYN	0188	O'REILLY, EILEEN
0128	HARKINS, ERIN	0189	SALES, PATRICIA
0129	TAYLOR, RACHEL	0190	HICKSON, SONSIRAY
0130	DEWITT, SOPHIA	0191	PASHAYAN, DAVID & TIM
0131	JANG, ROSA	0192	LEBOWITZ, STEPHEN
0132	EGOIAN, ALICE	0193	CARLSON, EDGAR
0133	GALVANI, III, EDWARD L	0194	HIGA, MITCHELL
0134	PRICE, BEVERLY	0195	SIERRA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL
0135	PHAM, TRINH	0196	WESTHOOK, SPENCER
0136	CARNEY, AMANDA	0197	POPP, DAVID
0137	COBB, ERIN	0198	RANDALL, MEL SCOTT
0138	KIM, EDWARD	0199	SCHLOBOHM, DEAN
0139	HERNANDEZ, CHRISTOPHER	0200	MILLER, PATTI & RICK
0140	RODRIQUEZ, JESSICA	0201	RIVERS, WALTER
0141	SCHLOTTHAUR, MARLA	0202	PATTERSON, D. E.
0142	VANG, MAIYOUA	0203	LEVIN, WARREN
0143	WINGFIELD, JOE ALFRED	0204	FRANCUS, KEN
0144	DYER, NELIA	0205	LOPEZ, MARK
0145	GUDINO, NICOLE	0206	SLOSSNER, KEVIN
0146	ROBINSON, DAVID	0207	ROGERS, DOUG
0147	MORGAN, AARON	0208	GORMAN, COREEN
0148	WILLIAMSON, JOSHUA	0209	WELLS, BRIAN
0149	KANAI, MIE	0210	STEIGER, MICHAEL
0150	NAKATANI, AKIKO	0211	WAUGH, BRENDA
0151	GULLICKSON, CRAIG	0212	LETKOWITZ, DAVE
0152	BLOCKER, HOLLY	0213	BECKHUIS, JAN
0153	CARTER, MARGERET	0214	FREEMAN, NICHOLAS
0154	KENT, KYRINA	0215	MAIER, DIAN Y
0155	JEW, PETER	0216	RUCHMAN, MIKE L
0156	ESTRADA, EMERSON	0217	PLOCKIER, NICOLE
0157	KILNER, KACY	0218	MOSS, MARK
0158	ELLIOTT, MELISSA	0219	STOWELL, L
0159	BECERRS, JOSEPH	0220	SIU, KATHLEEN
0160	JEFFRIES, JAIME	0221	GINSBERG, MERYL
0161	ENDO, DAVID	0222	MACHLIK, JEAN
0162	SLATER, SAMANTHA	0223	GLASS, JERRY
0163	ALEXANDER, GREGG	0224	DARLING, DOUG
0164	ARROYO, JOAQUIN	0225	SIMON, PHILY
0165	KETELSEN, RAE	0226	KNEISEL, BILL
0166	STRATHDEE, CHRISTINE	0227	PATALANO, PAM
0167	CHANDLER, THOMAS	0228	HEIKES, BONNIE
0168	NORIMOTO, TAMON	0229	REGENSBURGER, BILL
0169	LINNEMAN, JAMES	0230	KLING, JOEL
0170	MOORE, MICHAEL	0231	NAITO, SUZANA
0171	CARLIN, KEVIN	0232	MITCHELL, STEVEN
0172	LEWIS, DALE	0233	BUCKNER, RAILI
0173	EROPKIN, JONATHAN	0234	COHEN, CINDY
0174	CHRONISTER, KEEVA		
0175	TOMINE, ADRIANE		

0235	SARVETNICK, M	0296	ARAVE, WILLIAM L.
0236	KERSH, SHARWIN	0297	THODEY, ADAM
0237	CONTOS, MICHELE	0298	WARREN, KATHERINE
0238	SMITH, LELAND	0299	BAUN, WALTER
0239	MUSSMAN, MARC	0300	MADERA COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
0240	GOODWIN, MARCIA	0301	CENTRAL VALLEY CULLIGAN
0241	BAKER, REBEKAH	0302	THIEL, LEONARD
0242	WEST, MARY	0303	ARCATA FOREST PRODUCTS COMPANY
0243	SPINDLER, MICHAEL	0304	HEIMLER, JAMES
0244	STAHL, KIM	0305	KADOTA, MARIAN
0245	CROOK LOGGING	0306	DALY, EDIE
0246	ABREW, SHARON	0307	WESTON, SCOTT
0247	RUGGERI, HELEN & LOWE	0308	SMITH AUTO PARTS
0248	BLAKE, EUGENE & DOROTHY	0309	CITY OF REEDLEY
0249	KEMPER, ELLEN R	0310	MERLICH, MAX
0250	GODDARD, PAUL W.	0311	HAMILTON, TED
0251	REED, CHARLES D.	0312	FRONKS MOUNTAIN DRILLING
0252	HANEY, MARIELLA P	0313	TRIANGLE LINES, INC.
0253	SMYTH, MARY A	0314	HORN, FRED
0254	FINLEY, TOBY	0315	GRAYLIFT
0255	FARRIS, MARJORIE & RAGENE	0316	BALMAIN, DOUG M.
0256	SANDERS, NORMA M.	0317	DUYSEN, LARRY
0257	GORBET, JAMIE	0318	FRANK WILBER CO.
0258	RHU, SUE	0319	COSTA, JIM, CALIF. STATE ASSEMBLY
0259	OLSEN, BRUCE M.	0320	WESTRICK, MARIHELEN
0260	THOMAS, JILL	0321	AHRENS, JUDY
0261	CALIF. STATE UNIV., NORTHRIDGE	0322	LUMBERMENS UNDERWRITING ALLIANCE
0262	CAMERON, JOHN	0323	CAL STATE TRUCKING CO , INC.
0263	CHASTAIN, VELMA	0324	GANDUGLIA, VINCENT, TRUCKING
0264	DURYEE, EDNA	0325	AMERICAN VIDEO
0265	CALIFORNIA-FRESNO OIL CO	0326	LONG BEACH SAVINGS CO
0266	KILLEN, RONALD	0327	ROSS CORPORATION
0267	KENT, MICHAEL	0328	D STAKE MILL, INC.
0268	VOSS, RONALD L.	0329	CHANEY, DONALD E.
0269	HAMILTON, LIZ	0330	SEQUOIA ROCK COMPANY
0270	GROWERS BARK & SAWDUST	0331	VALWELD SUPPLY
0271	FARBER, RICK	0332	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOG SCALING & GRADING BUREAU
0272	HORNER, KENTON	0333	DEL TERRA, INC
0273	BUTSKO, STEPHEN	0334	WRIGHT, CRAIG
0274	BERNSTEIN, IRINA	0335	JACK'S REFRIGERATION, INC.
0275	MASON, TAD	0336	ONTARIO WATER-SKI ASSOCIATION
0276	BRICKNER, NORMA C.	0337	LILLIS, BURT
0277	BRICKNER, JOHN J	0338	QUINN, JOYCE & DAVE
0278	LIGGETT, BARBARA	0339	VUICH, ROSE ANN
0279	PALMER, GARY	0340	MIRELESS, LARRY
0280	COLLINS PINE CO.	0341	COCHRAN, GUY R.
0281	OSECHECK, PEARL	0342	MOSHER, MIKE S
0282	ELLIOTT, WILLIAM F. & ALICE D.	0343	STOUFFER, RICHARD
0283	MC LAUGHLIN, BOB	0344	TREVINO, RUBEN
0284	BOISE CASCADE CORP.	0345	TREVINO, MARTIN
0285	COMMERCIAL TRANSFER INC.	0346	POWELL, LAWRENCE M
0286	LEE, MIKE	0347	PETERS, PAULA
0287	INOVEC POSITIONING & CONTROL SYS.	0348	WILLIAMS, BILLY
0288	MARTENS CHEVROLET & OLDSMOBILE	0349	SMITH, EUELL & BARBARA
0289	SCHNAAR, BETTY	0350	HAGER, RANDY
0290	RADMAN, CLARA C	0351	JORGENSON AND CO.
0291	BIEBER, LILLIAN	0352	KAUWOH, PAT
0292	STORM, MERLYN	0353	HRUSKA, RICHARD
0293	DAVIS, TIM		
0294	GENETTI, CATHY		
0295	DEAN FILTER & SUPPLY, INC.		

0354	FRIESEN, JIMMY	0414	RODRIGUEZ, MARTIN
0355	MOLL, CHARLES	0415	WEATHERSON, LEROY
0356	ALBIE GAYLORD, INC	0416	BERG, OTTO
0357	CELAYA, VICTOR J.	0417	POWELL, ROGER
0358	TREVINO, EVARISTO	0418	STAFFORD, LARRY
0359	LLEWELLYN, TOM	0419	CHESMORE, WILLIAM
0360	PICKER PARTS, INC.	0420	PIPER, GARY
0361	MC MURTRY, VICTOR	0421	MERCHANT MAGAZINE
0362	NASAHOOD, RALPH	0422	MILLER, EDMAN L.
0363	WESTERN LANDSCAPE	0423	H O.S TRUCKING, INC
0364	COTTON, TOM	0424	CHAVIRA, ART
0365	SLYE, RICHARD	0425	CHAVIRA, REYNALDO
0366	CORTEZ, MIGUEL	0426	YBARRA, JOSE
0367	SPIER, JIM	0427	RIVERBEND TRUCKING, INC.
0368	SALAZAR, SANTIAGO	0428	PARKS, MARTIN
0369	ROMERO, CHRISTINE	0429	ELLISON CO
0370	JOHNSTON, MICHAEL	0430	GILBERT FOREST PRODUCTS
0371	CATRON, MICHAEL	0431	REALTY WORLD - DITTON REALTY
0372	SAMANIEGO, SANTOS	0432	FALCON, JIM
0373	FREEMAN, LEROY	0433	HOLINBECK, SCOTT
0374	KEMP, W L	0434	ALSTON, RONNIE
0375	KINGSLEY, MIKE	0435	DAVIS, AILEEN
0376	ERSKINE, MICHAEL	0436	ZAMBRACO, CMODORO JR
0377	COWAN, BILLY	0437	HORSLEY, WESLEY
0378	NOURIAN, GAIZAK	0439	GALAVEZ, CLYDE
0379	MIZE, DANNY	0439	GOLDING SULLIVAN LUMBER SALES
0380	ACOSTA, ALFRED	0440	PRUNEDA, RENE
0381	DINUBA TIMBER INDUSTRIES	0441	GLANDON, CHARLES L.
0382	MC REYNOLDS, DEAN	0442	GARCIA, REYNALDO
0383	TIMBERLINE LOGGING	0443	GIBBLE, ROCKY
0384	CORTESE, TONY	0444	OBERO, MATEO
0385	AYERS, DON	0445	RIPPETOE, ERNIE
0386	GOLDING SULLIVAN LUMBER SALES	0446	MADERA COUNTY INDUST DEV COMM
0387	CALIF. LICENSED FORESTERS ASSOC.	0447	FLORES, PETE
0388	SHUMAKER, DALE	0448	RODRIGUEZ, JUAN A
0389	MASON, MIKE	0449	AYALA, THEODORE J
0390	COTTON, MIKE	0450	WALKER, KENNETH L
0391	WALL, WALTER	0451	B & T HYDRAULICS
0392	BRANNON, GENE	0452	OLDHAM, CHARLES
0393	SMITH, STEVE	0453	DAVIS, BYRON
0393	WADE, GENE	0454	HIGHTOWER, J E.
0395	RICHARDSON, MARK	0455	RAHL, JOHN
0396	THIESEN, ERNEST	0456	WHITE, P
0397	ALL COAST FOREST PRODUCTS, INC	0457	SHANKS, WANDA
0398	PASILLAS, STEVE	0458	ARRETICHE, JEAN P.
0399	JOHNSTON, KEVIN	0459	HAWKINS, LEE C
0400	GARCIA, JOE L	0460	SCHICK, ED
0401	ELJONDO, LEONEL	0461	TAIT, DALE N
0402	SAROYAN, ROBERT	0462	FLEMING LOGGING
0403	ZANINOVICH, JOHN M.	0463	PRICE, JOHN
0404	KING, HAROLD	0464	PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY
0405	PASILLAS, RUDY	0465	REYNA, DANIEL
0406	WILKINSON, ROBERT	0466	NAVARRO, EDDIE
0407	GARZA, R.	0467	WILSON BUILDING MATERIALS
0408	MATTHIESEN, JACKIE	0468	DOERSCHLAG, DONALD J
0409	OLMOS, DOMINGO	0469	MC NEAL, CONNIE MAC
0410	QUIGLEY, KENNETH	0470	CALPINE CONTAINERS, INC
0411	TERRY, BILL	0471	B & B BUILDERS SUPPLY & HARDWARE
0412	UNIV OF CALIF., COOP EXTENSION OF AGRONOMY & RANGE	0472	ARATA, JOHN H
0413	U S D A , PACIFIC SW EXPER. STA.	0473	ARROYO, RICK
		0474	SALEM EQUIPMENT

0475	CONVEYCO SALES CORP	0535	LYNCH, JIMMIE
0476	SLAYTON, HENRY D	0536	STOOPS, JAMES
0477	B & R SHEET METAL, INC	0537	YORK, CARL O.
0478	HERRERA, BARRY	0538	EWELL, DAVID
0479	VELA, RUBEN	0539	LOWMAN, HELENA
0480	ALVARADO, RAUL	0540	AUDUBON SOCIETY, NAPA/SOLANO
0481	PIZANA, RICHARD	0541	MORRIS, WILLIAM E.
0482	GARZA, OSCAR	0542	SANDERS, RICHARD
0483	MADERA COUNTY BD OF SUPERVISORS	0543	WINDMILLER, ALAN S
0484	BRYANT, RICH	0544	MECCHI, PETER
0485	GONZALEZ, SALVADOR	0545	CIRCLE W RANCH
0486	SOSSMAN, LARRY	0546	BESHARSE, JAMES
0487	ELLIOT, WILLIAM R	0547	MAYER, DAVID
0488	ESTRADA, DOMINGO R.	0548	VINING, JOHN
0489	SCHREIBER, RALPH	0549	DAVIS, TED
0490	HALE, BLAINE	0550	SMITH, GLENN
0491	SEQUOIA SAW & SUPPLY COMPANY	0551	ORTIZ, GONZALO
0492	KRICK, CHRISTOPHER	0552	ROGERS, BRIAN
0493	MORGAN, GEORGE	0553	SIM, JR., CLIFFORD
0494	ERICKSON, LARRY	0554	STARK, GEORGE
0495	THOMPSON, MIKE	0555	MARTIN, DARLENE & TED
0496	QUEDEZ, JOHN	0556	W. H BRESHEARS, INC.
0497	NAVARRO, DONALD	0557	WILLIAMS, ROBERT
0498	GONZALES, RICHARD A.	0558	STICKNEY, JERRY
0499	COMER, JUDY	0559	CLINE, RICHARD J
0500	RODRIGUEZ, RICHARD A	0560	CLINE, RICHARD L
0501	DAVIS, DANIEL	0561	WARD, TERRY
0502	WARMAN, AL	0562	RENDON, ERNEST
0503	ALLEN, LEON	0563	HENRY, M
0504	JONES, RON	0564	GONZALES, SAL
0505	OSA, MATT & MRS.	0565	WARD, GARY
0506	BEAMAN, WARREN	0566	CROSE, RUSSELL
0507	WALZ, THOMAS	0567	ALLEN, TIM
0508	CALPINE CONTAINERS, INC.	0568	WILSON, CLAY
0509	MUIR, BRIAN MITCHELL	0569	MARTIN, RICHARD
0510	HORRELL, JOHN P	0570	ROOPE, G L.
0511	DOWN RIVER INTERNATIONAL, INC	0571	HALE, SR , BOBBY
0512	LAKWOOD FOREST PRODUCTS	0572	GARZA, ROBERT
0513	WISEMAN, GEORGE	0573	AHRENS, DONALD
0514	ANDERS, R	0574	LOBARDO, ROSARIO
0515	IVIE, DAVE	0575	GARCIA, PORFIE
0516	TARPLEY, LES	0576	ROBINSON, BOBBY G.
0517	CARROLL, JOHN F.	0577	CARMER, DEBBIE
0518	CONSTABLE, VIRGINIA A	0578	LORD, GERALD
0519	ALLEN, WAYNE	0579	COX, RICHARD
0520	IVIE, TAMI	0580	BEECHER, WILBUR
0521	BUSTAMANTE, JOE	0581	OLIVER, MARK
0522	DOZIER, FORREST	0582	CARPENTER, ROBERT A
0523	FRESNO COUNTY, PARKS DIVISION	0583	HALE, CURTIS
0524	IVIE, LARRY	0584	MASTERS, BOYD D
0525	MC GARVEY, SR , JAMES J	0585	CHILDERS, CLARK
0526	JONES, ROBERT	0586	GARCIA, BUTCH
0527	COOK, TOM	0587	CHILDERS, RICHARD
0528	GONZALES, EFRIN	0588	ZIMMERMAN, JAMES R.
0529	ROGERS, JR., ROBERT	0589	CHEPO, LAWRENCE
0530	WATKINS, OSCAR	0590	METOYER, COLINE
0531	WOODS, LANEY	0591	WAKEFIELD, KAREN
0532	CONSTANTIN, RAYMOND	0592	KING, BURT
0533	MOTION INDUSTRIES, INC	0593	GARCIA, AL F.
0534	O'NEAL, ROY	0594	RODRIGUEZ, ELIAS
0535	LYNCH, JIMMIE	0595	HINES, ROY

0596 EBERLE, JAMES
 0597 CORNETT, JACK
 0598 PUNKIN, TIMOTHY C.
 0599 ANONYMOUS, CORRINE
 0600 SHABAZIAN, ARMEN
 0601 HARTFIELD, RICK
 0602 MITCHELL, KENNETH
 0603 HARRISON, R T.
 0604 BREMMERMAN, JOHN
 0605 EICKHORN, VALERIE
 0606 TRESIDDER, BRUCE
 0607 TRESIDDER, RICHARD
 0608 TRESIDDER, SHIRLEY
 0609 CLARK, SANDRYA
 0610 THOMPSON, DOUGLAS
 0611 MOEN, DAN
 0612 LEWIS, CALVIN
 0613 DODGE, MATT
 0614 SOTELO, ANDREW C.
 0615 WINDMILLER, GAY
 0616 OSA, ROBERT
 0617 LOWMAN, EUGENE
 0618 TREUMER, DARREN
 0619 COLE, BILL
 0620 COBB, CHRISTOPHER
 0621 KING, DONALD
 0622 APODACA, LARRY
 0623 JIMENEZ, R.
 0624 ROBERTS, GEORGE F
 0625 PEREZ, HECTOR
 0626 BROWN, LARRY
 0627 HERNANDEZ, SAM S
 0628 CANTRELL, AMOS L.
 0629 JOHNSON, B. L.
 0630 COBB, CLIFF
 0631 HARBOTTLE, JERRY
 0632 VEYLES, ROCKY
 0633 KING, JOHN A.
 0634 HOLDRIDGE, JIM
 0635 MARTINEZ, JOE M
 0636 GIESBACHT, WILLIE
 0637 DAVIS, TIM A
 0638 ROBERTS, LUTHER
 0639 ARROYO, JR , SAMUEL
 0640 MORGAN, ROB
 0641 RUDY, ELAINE
 0642 HANSEN, JASON
 0643 GONZALEZ, ISRAEL
 0644 DURAN, JIMMY
 0645 LICON, ELOY
 0646 DANCER, NORMAN
 0647 LICON, DAVID
 0648 MURRY, JACK
 0649 FURMAN LUMBER CO.
 0650 PACIFIC FOREST PRODUCTS
 0651 EICHHORN, RONALD W.
 0652 SOVA, MARK
 0653 YBARRA, BERNARD
 0654 ESCH, BRUCE
 0655 FLINN, JEFF
 0656 PORCILE, RON

0657 WALLA, PETE
 0658 CORTEZ, MIKE
 0659 HUBBARD, TOMMY GUY & MRS.
 0660 RODRIGUEZ, FRED
 0661 GARCIA, JAVIER
 0662 PINTO, JOHN
 0663 ELLIS, STEPHEN
 0664 MC CALL, J A. & FAMILY
 0665 JOHNSON, BILLY R.
 0666 HALLAMAN, FRANK
 0667 HARE, DAVID
 0668 ISQUIERO, ROBERT
 0669 LOPEZ, RICHARD
 0670 GREER, JOHN
 0671 BOGDON, TOM
 0672 FRESNO WIRE ROPE & RIGGING CO.
 0673 GREER, BOB
 0674 GARZA, RAY
 0675 MILLER, ROBERT
 0676 GLANZER, CHRIS M.
 0677 RIVERA, JESSE
 0678 VALLEJO, JOE
 0679 GUZMAN, HECTOR
 0680 PRUNEDA, ROY
 0681 CUSTOM COMPUTER SERVICES, INC
 0682 SKASOL INCORPORATED
 0683 OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF
 FRESNO
 0684 ANDERSON, MARK
 0685 COLLINS GRADING & TRUCKING
 0686 MORALES, ISRAEL
 0687 COBB, MAURICE M.
 0688 CALIF. SAVE OUR STREAMS COUNCIL
 0689 STOUGHTON DAVIDSON
 0690 EYE MEDICAL CENFRESON
 0691 MARIPOSA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
 0692 NORBY LUMBER COMPANY, INC.
 0693 LICON, ALEX
 0694 TEAGUE, CHARLES
 0695 PERALTA, ALFREDO
 0696 VALDEZ, ROGELIO
 0697 HEMMAN, WILLIAM
 0698 GOSLIN, DALE
 0699 ELLIOTT, CHARLES
 0700 FREEMAN, PHIL
 0701 BOCA, FRANK
 0702 KAUWOH, NICOLAS
 0703 MC GREGOR, POLLY
 0704 WOOD, CAROL
 0705 TOROSIAN, STEVE
 0706 BAILEY, PHIL
 0707 LINNENKOHL, BONNIE
 0708 RIPPEE, JAMES
 0709 CANO, RUBEN
 0710 TUTLER, KENT
 0711 WESTERN WOODS, INC.
 0712 INTEGRATED ENERGY ECON. SERVICES
 0713 PANAS, LUCY
 0714 PANAS, ANDY
 0715 HELM, BRAD
 0716 EBERLE, LISA

0717	REYES, TONY	0778	BOYLAN, RICHARD
0718	ZAMBRANO, JIMMY F.	0779	ESPINOZA, FIDEL
0719	WALTON, KAREN	0780	KELLY, PHIL
0720	HOLINBECK, GENEVIVE	0781	WEAVER, JOAN
0721	CRAIG, MICHAEL	0782	RODRIGUEZ, CHRIS
0722	SHARP, JUDY	0783	HERROLD, TERRI
0723	HINOJOSA, CESARIO	0784	EDLEN, LINN D.
0724	GONZALES, GILBERT	0785	SE, RUSSELL O. JR.
0725	ASMAR, CHARLIE	0786	RIVERA, MARK
0726	BUSTAMANTE, MANUEL	0787	LEWIS, DENNIS
0727	PEREZ, MICHAEL J.	0788	BETUNCOURT, HENRY
0728	HERNANDEZ, C	0789	TRUJILLO, JAVIER
0729	PUMAREJE, BEN	0790	CENTRAL WEST PRODUCE
0730	SOLIS, BENJAMIN	0791	WISE, RUSSELL SR.
0731	MC CORMICK, KEITH	0792	LOPEZ, MARTIN
0732	RIVERA, DAVID	0793	SMITH, CHUCK
0733	SANTOS, JAVIER D L	0794	ALCAPE, ART
0734	LOPEZ, ROBERT A.	0795	SOMERA, ALLEN
0735	LADD, MS JIMMIE	0796	TARPLEY, GENIE
0736	ALBRECHT, NORMAN	0797	ZAMORA, FILIMON
0737	BELLO, TEDDY	0798	ALVAREZ, MATT
0738	ACEVEDO, ROBERT	0799	GONZALES, JOE
0739	EVANS, FAY	0800	SOMERA, ALBERT
0740	JONES, LARRY	0801	BUTLER, GEORGE
0741	SPINDEL, GERALD & SHEILA	0802	BROWN, RICK
0742	STEINBERG, DAN & MRS.	0803	MIZE, GARY
0743	BASYE, RON	0804	LAWRENCE, JOHN L.
0744	GABALDON, TINO	0805	SHAUBACH, BUD
0745	SCHWAGON, J.	0806	PINEDO, JUAN F.
0746	SIMPSON, LARRY	0807	HOOVER, DAVID
0747	DINUBA LUMBER CO.	0808	BOLLOCK, STEVEN
0748	ROBERTS, JANICE	0809	GABALDON, FRANK
0749	KALENDER, BRENDA M	0810	DURAN, MANUEL
0750	GREENE, NANINE H	0811	SUMMERS, E R
0751	REMPER, ROBIN	0812	WORTHLEY, J STEVEN
0752	SEQUOIA FOREST INDUSTRIES	0813	NELSON, DON
0753	PIRTO, DOUGLAS D.	0814	FRESNO COUNTY FARM BUREAU
0754	BLANCAS, TED	0815	SCHWEIKERT, VICTOR
0755	BEITIEW, B	0816	MAVIN, EVAN
0756	OCHOA-TORES, MARIO A.	0817	MADERA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
0757	MORGAN, JERRY	0818	FRIENDS OF THE RIVER
0759	KING RANCH ENTERPRISE	0819	QUINN COMPANY
0759	SUDERMAN, DAVID	0820	BREWER, ELSIE
0760	LITTWEN, PHIL	0821	WARKENTINE, W.
0761	SLAYTON, PAT	0822	WATKINS, R.
0762	LOPEZ, JAIME	0823	FUDGE, DALE W.
0763	HUBERT, SCOTT	0824	PETERSON, FLOYD
0764	BUCKINGHAM, JACK	0825	GONZALES, RICHARD
0765	GRIEL, MICHAEL	0826	LINCUP, DWAYNE
0766	FLINN, LEE	0827	BOLKER, WENDY
0767	CORNELIUSON, PHILLIP P.	0828	PLAND, R. H
0768	BOTTOMS, JERRY, SR.	0829	VALEN, MRS. JUDITH K.
0769	FENNELL, GERALD	0830	KNOY, JACK
0770	BULLER, HAROLD	0831	HESTER, MILDA
0771	ROLA, JOHN JAMES	0832	KAUFFMAN, JERRY
0772	DINUBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	0833	KASPAR, TRISH
0773	JOHNSTON, DAVE	0834	WEBB, MR. AND MRS. RAL
0774	SIMONS, STEPHEN	0835	LEIPNIK, J. & MRS
0775	FLEMING, JAMES	0836	WUESTHOFF, FRANCO L.
0776	SILVA, RAY	0837	SPINAK, RENEE
0777	SLATER, MARCY	0838	DURAN, DANNY

0839	REYES, JESSIE	0900	FLETCHER, COLIN
0840	CHAPMAN, MICHAEL & MRS.	0901	ELDER, J.W.
0841	SAUDERS, RICHARD	0902	GOWEN, AGNES
0842	STOUFFER, DAISY	0903	AGUIRRE, FERNIE
0843	WILLIAMS, BILLY R	0904	YBARRA, ERNEST G
0844	SHELTON, JR., ALLEN W	0905	YBARRA, RAUL
0845	ALEXANDER, LINDA & BILL	0906	SHAW, CHARLES A.
0846	REID, ROGER	0907	JAEGER, ERIC
0847	HANNAN, ROBERT C. AND DORIS	0908	ROGERS, RAY
0848	HARRIS, MANNING C	0909	WALLEN, SIGNE
0849	INTERLAKE	0910	REEDLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
0850	SANCHEZ, FRANCISCO & FAMILY	0911	RUNKEL, JOHN H. & GLADYS
0851	MASON, JAMES	0912	ENGLAND, THERESA
0852	MURDOCK, MALOY OTIS	0913	SURYARMAN, MAYA M.
0853	CLAPP, ATLEE	0914	BOESEL, JOHN
0854	MC CANN, CATHERINE	0915	ARROYO, ARTURO
0855	WHITE, WARREN	0916	HASCALL, GARY
0856	HUSSONG, EDWARD M.	0917	SMITH, CARL R.
0857	DEAN, MEREDITH	0918	DIAZ, JOE
0858	MC CARROLL, STEPHEN P	0919	PEREZ, JOAQUIN
0859	VIETZKE, PAUL C.	0920	DIAZ, AUGUSTINE
0860	HERR, ROBERT E	0921	BISSETT, LESTER & ELIZABETH
0861	DIMITRE, TOM	0922	WOOD, VIVIAN
0862	SHERMAN, HARVEY	0923	BRIDENBAUGH, JOHN
0863	SAGEBIEL, JOHN C.	0924	CAMPBELL, JIM
0864	ELECTRIC MOTOR SHOP	0925	AGUAYO, SALVADOR
0865	VAN ALSTYNE, R.W.	0926	PLUMB, STEVE
0866	PITTMAN, SMOKEY	0927	MEADORS, CRAIG
0867	BLY, EDWIN E.	0928	DICKEN, T.
0868	PACIFIC INVESTMENT COMPANY	0929	EMMERT, FRANCIS
0869	MOLLGAARD, HARRY & THEO	0930	BOHLEN, CAROL
0870	NELSON, WILLARD	0931	GEISLER, DOROTHY
0871	RELIANCE METAL CENTER	0932	KUSTRON, PAUL E
0872	O'ROUCHE	0933	LINCOLN, J. E. & MRS
0873	ERSKINE, KAREN	0934	ROGERS, DEE
0874	THEBAULT, GARY	0935	CONTRERAS RON
0875	BARBA, D.	0936	KLECKNER, R & AUSTIN, MARY KAY
0876	CLARKE, JACKIE	0937	ALLEN, ROBERT
0877	WATKINS, JIMMY	0938	MIKUTELT, S.
0878	BELTRAN, RYAN	0939	MATTESON, ANN
0879	CEPEDA, MIGUEL	0940	BERNHART, URSULA A
0880	WILLIAMS, CECIL	0941	SCHWARTZ, WAYNE S.
0881	MC REYNOLDS, CARL D.	0942	GILMAN, MRS. P. K.
0882	JONES, PIRKLE	0943	VAN STEENBERGEN, BERNICE
0883	HEINRICHS, EDDIE L	0944	TRACHTENBERG, ALAN
0884	BYRD, LYLE	0945	KALASHIAN, JOHN B.
0885	SHRUM, LEROY	0946	ROBINSON, R MAURICE
0886	CUTSHAW, ROBERT	0947	REED EQUIPMENT COMPANY
0887	KEHOE, VINCENT	0948	WILSON, JAMES
0888	PRUITT, RONALD R.	0949	KOPLESON, ROBERT B
0889	SHROEDER, ERIC	0950	CALKINS, RICHARD
0890	ENNS, CAROL	0951	ARDITTI, PECKNER
0891	ADAMS, RICK	0952	HORN, DAVID
0892	AYAYAN, C	0953	HINES, ANTONINAR
0893	GONZALES, JACK	0954	PACIFIC EQUITY MANAGEMENT
0894	GONZALES, MRS SAL	0955	YOSEMITE GATEWAY BD. OF REALTORS
0895	AYALA, FRANK	0956	HOPKINS, CAROL
0896	PEREZ, GUSTARO & GUS	0957	HAVLIK, HUGH
0897	BUGG, CHARLES	0958	STEVEN, JACQUELINE
0898	HARVEY, RICHARDSON B & MARY L.	0959	LIBRA WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS
0899	NY, STEPHEN	0960	WALDRIP, STEVE

0961	GRAHAM, JOHN & MRS	1022	GREENMAN, JESSEA
0962	BANKER, FRANKLIN L	1023	NORRIS, DARCY
0963	WOODRUFF, AYN	1024	KELLY, ALAN
0964	FARLEY, JAMES	1025	ENSAT, R
0965	TULLY, CHARLES VINCENT	1026	NORRIS, SUSAN
0966	NORMAN, RICHARD L	1027	GOLSETH, ANNE
0967	MAIDA, CECILIA A	1028	REYNOLDS, NANCY
0968	MORTON, CLAUDE E.	1029	DAVID, JOHN E
0969	WHITE, SANDRA	1030	FISTER, KRIS
0970	MORRISON, DAVID	1030	FISTER, KRIS
0971	JENKS, KEN	1031	PORPIGLIA, RANDY
0972	MILLER, KEN	1032	ODEM, JR , WILBERT
0973	EARLYGROWN, RAVEN	1033	MC GUIRE, TODD
0974	LAWTON, MARY & RUSS	1034	HALL, CARL R. & ELLEN
0975	STEHURA, SEAN	1035	PRUSSIN, LARRY
0976	CASSIDY, ANN	1036	WELLER, KENNETH
0977	ROBINSON, MARY L.	1037	EDELMAN, PAUL
0978	HORNISH, DENNIS	1038	NELSON, JACK
0979	HUME-GREENLEE, KATRINA	1039	GREENFIELD, GARY
0980	MC COY, JANE KYLE	1040	NORRIS, DAVE
0981	VOLANDAI, MRS OAKES	1041	FUHRMAN, JONATHAN
0982	PERELLI, RICHARD	1042	CONNELLA, JIM L
0983	TAYLOR, WILL	1043	AUBERRY BUILDERS SUPPLY
0984	CATLIN, RALPH	1044	ANDERSON, STEPHEN P.
0985	HARRIS, VIRGINIA-JANE	1045	HADENFELT, DENNIS
0986	BERRIDGE, TOM	1046	WATKINS, TOINI
0987	HINSCH, CHARLES	1047	BUCKHOUT, STEPHEN
0988	ANDERSON, RICHARD	1048	HOYT, R. S , & CO.
0989	SISKIYOU FOREST CONSULTANTS	1049	STEVENSON, SCOTT
0990	WINTERNITZ, WILLIAM JR	1050	WUETHRICH, PAUL F AND RUTH E.
0991	D'ANNE, DENISE	1051	WARREN, ROBERT
0992	CARPENTER, SCOTT	1052	WEST, WENDY K
0993	KRUSE, SCOTT M	1053	KRISOFF, WILLIAM B.
0994	CALENDAR FIRE PROTECTION	1054	DOERKSEN BUILDING MATERIALS
0995	BAUM, RUDY	1055	CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
0996	PENNINGTON,S. R., ENTERPRISES	1056	DOWELL, PEGGY S.
0997	VALLEY IRON, INC.	1057	NOLI, BILL
0998	SCHLOSS, DELORES	1058	SMALLEN, MARK
0999	BUCKLIN, RUTH	1059	FLUID AIR COMPONENTS, INC.
1000	SCHLOSS, RICHARD	1060	MC DOUGALL, G S
1001	JOHNSTON, D B & YOUNG, T C	1061	O'CONNOR, JEWETT
1002	WESTERN TIMBER ASSOC	1062	MOORE, GEORGE A.
1003	NELSON, JIM	1063	PETERSON, JAMES
1004	MC CONNELL, C	1064	LESLIE, ROBERT J.
1005	SHERMAN, VIVIAN CHOY	1065	BEVAN, BETTY
1006	HENRY, MARY ANN	1066	ELLIOTT, WARD
1007	BELLO, ROBIN	1067	ROBERT V. JENSEN, INC.
1008	HULSE, STEPHEN S.	1068	NILSSON, KAREN & NILS
1009	CLORNIER, GEORGE	1069	KELSO, BOB
1010	WORTHING, S.M.	1070	STILLION, KAY
1011	PALMER, HELEN & DAVID	1071	RANK, ROBERT C.
1012	KAPLAN, MICHAEL R.	1072	WIMBERLY, ALLEN
1013	RIGGI, ANTHONY J.	1073	WHEELER, IRVING L.
1014	CHRIST, KATHY A	1074	KELLY, BOBBY
1015	LIGOTTI, NARDA A.	1075	HARE, GLENN
1016	POPPINK, M A	1076	MOTT, DARLENE
1017	BURLEY, VIRGINIA	1077	TROESI, RUBY
1018	MC CONNELL, LORETTA	1078	SHARP, DEL
1019	REECE, GERRY & JAMES	1079	BECK, HOPE
1020	KLUCKNER, JOHN W.	1080	PAUL BROOKS LOGGING
1021	DAWDY, KEN	1081	FRAZIER, VERN

1082	COVERDALE, EDWARD	1143	DEPEW, DAVE
1083	WESER, NEWTON D	1144	WARD, RICHARD B.
1084	RAGNETTI, JOHN & BOBBIE	1145	PERRY FAMILY
1085	ZOLNAY, RICK	1146	FRISCHMAN, LES
1086	WILLSOX, VIVIAN C.	1147	POPE, ROBERT D.
1087	WHITE, GRACE	1148	SCHAEFER, WILLIAM P
1088	SHARP, SAVONIA F	1149	BASS LAKE ENTERPRISES, INC.
1089	HAZELTON, EARL	1150	ZEP MANUFACTURING CO.
1090	APODACA, BARBARA	1151	GARRISON, ANNA
1091	JOYNER, JAMES H.	1152	JANSEN, REBECCA
1092	RAGNETTI, TONY	1153	JANSEN, LARRY
1093	MC GUINNESS, PATRICK	1154	SPAFFORD, KATHY
1094	JENKINS, WILLIAM	1155	PARR, CHERE M.
1095	BEARD, M. E	1156	ROSE, MICHAEL
1096	HOSKINS, SUE	1157	CORNETT, O.
1097	NAVARRO, SANDRA S	1158	SIERRA LAND USE COMMITTEE
1098	ELLISON, JACK	1159	BELL, RICH
1099	LOCKHART, JOHN	1160	HOSLEY, JAMES K
1100	LOCKHART, LANA	1161	TIMMER, JOHN
1101	WRIGHT, DONN	1162	MC INTYRE, ROBERT
1102	BROOKS, VIOLA M.	1163	SELIG, LEIGH
1103	JOHNSON, EUGENE	1164	PIMENTEL, TOM
1104	MOORE, LLOYD	1165	WAHEED, DENNIS
1105	STOREY, DUANE	1166	WOODS, RUSTY
1106	SMITH, JR., CECIL M	1167	SIEGEL, PAULA
1107	VOIGHT, C.	1168	HART, JR., VAN E
1108	RUSTIGEN, S.	1169	HICKMAN, CARLOS
1109	DE ROUCHEY, ROBERT A	1170	MERRYMAN, PAT W.
1110	THORNTON, JACK	1171	BURT, JACK W.
1111	STOKES, JOHN R	1172	BERGMAN, CARL D
1112	JULIEN, R. A., OIL CO.	1173	COWLEY, MARJORIE
1113	HOLT BROS.	1174	PHILLIPS, JANET
1114	CULLEN, LAWRENCE H.	1175	CORWIN, PHIL
1115	PETERS, TED, TRUCKING, INC	1176	REIMER, DINAH
1116	LAZARUS, MARGERY	1177	CALIF ASSOC. OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED
1117	STONE, NED	1178	SPORTSMEN'S COUNCIL OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
1118	SANDELL, CAROL	1179	FRESNO COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB
1119	MITCHELL, ROBIN	1180	RADDATZ, WARREN
1120	MC CLELLAND, DARRELL	1181	SEQUOIA SKYLINE, INC.
1121	BOWMAN, ROBERT	1182	SKYLINE LOGGING, INC.
1122	FUDGE, KEN	1183	WILLBANKS, LAURA
1123	SIERRA SOLID WASTE & TRUCKING	1184	JACKSON, R. ALLEN
1124	JONES-HOWARD, BARBARA	1185	ELLIOTT, GEORGE
1125	YOSEMITE TRAILS PACK STATION	1186	FLAHERTY, JAY
1126	MORROW, MIKE	1187	DEAUVILLE, PAUL M.
1127	TROMBA, SAL	1188	BATEY, CAROL
1128	MID-VALLEY DISTRIBUTORS	1189	INOVEC POSITIONING & CONTROL SYS.
1129	MC INTYRE, EILEEN	1190	POOSER LUMBER CO., INC.
1130	SMITH, PEGGY	1191	LINSCOTT, RUSSELL
1131	CARLSON, DARIN PAUL	1192	MEDLEY, RAYMOND P.
1132	REIMER, ROBERT	1193	RADDATZ, LORRAINE
1133	THOMPSON & GILL, INC.	1194	FRED JONES TRUCKING
1134	KING, STEPHEN	1195	BROWN, VICTOR C.
1135	VINING, PAUL	1196	LUCITT, KATHLEEN
1136	ALLMAN, JAMES N.	1197	BLAKE, ROBERT E.
1137	WINKENBACH LOGGING	1198	FERAM, ROB
1138	BLECHA, ROBERT	1199	PIERCE, JOHN G
1139	WOODS, NANCY	1200	GLICK, DENNIS R.
1140	COCHRAN CONSTRUCTION	1201	O'QUIN, MICHAEL W. & FAMILY
1141	ANGEL, JOHN		
1142	BLOCK, P L		

1202	MECCHI, GLEN & MELANIE	1261	GLEIM-CROWN PUMP, INC.
1203	HOPKINS, HEIDI	1262	HANESS, LESLIE
1204	MORGAN, DONALD L	1263	BLITZER, JAMIE
1205	THIESSEN, B	1264	WILSON, RICHARD B.
1206	CAZARES, YGNACIO	1265	SAUER, KEITH
1207	SHAWVER TRUCKING COMPANY	1266	MILLER, LOUISE M
1208	KOVAC, THOMAS	1267	FERRANTI, THOMAS J.
1209	BRIDGES, GENE	1268	FLECK, MITCHELL R
1210	LEADER, M WENDI	1269	DYER, GEORGE & FAMILY
1211	HRABE, GERALDINE	1270	FINLEY, BRENT
1212	ROUFF, JEAN	1271	ACREE, MARTIN
1213	HAWKSWORTH, JOHN	1272	MAC ISAAC, JUDITH
1214	JACOBSEN, SHELLI	1273	DORAN, BONNIE L.
1215	WEBBER, STEPHEN E.	1274	RODRIGUEZ, OPAL
1216	POTTER, JOSHUA W	1275	MATTESON, M A
1217	REDAYAN, ROD	1276	PURDY, MARK
1218	KOVACEVICH, NICK, TRUCKING	1277	COSSEY, TOM
1219	KOBASHI FARMS, INC	1278	RAMBO, MASA
1220	USSERY, JOHNNY	1279	ROSE, GREG
1221	TATUM, DALE	1280	ROSS, MICHAEL
1222	WILLARD, DWIGHT M	1281	BRADY, ALAN & JOANNE
1223	MENZL, ALBERT J	1282	MOTTOLA, PHYLLIS
1224	SOLORZANO, LEONOR	1283	ZEE MEDICAL SERVICE CO.
1225	SIRBU, GARY M.	1284	SMITH, J D. TRUCKING
1226	ROBERT BROWN ASSOCIATES	1285	RUNNER, CHRISTOPHER J.
1227	PERKINS, JACK	1286	HANNACO KNIVES AND SAWS
1228	OHST, GARY	1287	WALTER R SCOTT, INC.
1229	BERRY, JR , R. J , INC.	1288	FRAILING, JOHN B.
1230	COUSINS, RICHARD S.	1289	WAGNER, KERMIT
1231	CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING PROTECTION ALLIANCE	1290	LAMPE, JOHN C
1232	GREGORY, WILLIAM O	1291	JETTE'S YOSEMITE PARKLINE
1233	NORBY, JUDI	1292	JOHNSON ENTERPRISES
1234	WILCOX, RUTHELLA	1293	UNGER, LORRAINE AND ART
1235	BALES, VIRGINIA	1294	BARTLEY, JAMES A
1236	BETTY, DOUG	1295	HIGGINS AND RUTLEDGE INSURANCE
1237	MAASKANT, LORI	1296	LEMKUIL, JEANNE
1238	MESSER, TIM	1297	FABRIS, MRS PLENA
1239	MESSER, WINIFRED	1298	CHILDERS, WARREN & BLANCHE
1240	MESSER, R.W	1299	GINAR, CHRISTIAN
1241	ROBERTSON, BRETT	1300	FIELD, DOROTHY
1242	SIERRA CEDARS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT	1301	LAND USE ASSOCIATES
1243	BERENSMEIER, JEAN	1302	ENGEL, STEVE
1244	NEUBAUER, WALTER	1303	BEVAN, KEITH
1245	TOSTEVIN, MR. BRECK	1304	NICKON, LINDA
1246	RANK, LYNN	1305	FISHBACK, JEFF & KAREN
1247	LEWIS, REGINALD S	1306	MOTARJEMI, SHEREEN
1248	SMITH, JEAN A	1307	FELTS, MARGARET
1249	POPE TIRE COMPANY	1308	PETERHAUS, LAURA K
1250	RICHARDSON, GARY	1309	MUELLER, LOIS B.
1251	TEMPLETON, RUSSELL E	1310	REZNICK, EMANUEL & MRS.
1252	SAUER, PAT	1311	SEABURG, DONNA
1253	ROSS, MARTY	1312	GIBSON, JAY O.
1254	VERNALLIS, MARGARET S.	1313	NATURE CONSERVANCY
1255	PENNY, KATHERINE	1314	KELLEY, MARY C.
1256	DOANE, JAY S	1315	SEDLER, DALE R
1257	LICON, MELISSA	1316	KERRISON, CAROL
1258	LEE, MICHAEL	1317	WRIGHT, MELINDA
1259	TUBES, INC.	1318	FORREST, KIM
1260	KING BEARING, INC	1319	LEONG, HERBERT
		1320	JACOBSON, ERIK
		1321	SIMMONS, HELEN S.

1322	STONE, JAMES R	1382	MOON, GARY
1323	MOORE, ROBERT	1383	WRIGHT, ROBERT
1324	PATTERSON, EDWARD M	1384	HANSEN, BILL
1325	WINGFIELD, ROBERT	1385	BEARD, SUSAN
1326	RORTY, BRUCE V	1386	GRAHAM, PETER
1327	O'CONNOR, ELLEN L.	1387	MOSHER, JACKSON
1328	MECCHI LOGGING, INC	1388	GORDON, ELLEN
1329	KIPER, HAROLD	1389	CIMINO, RICH
1330	MATTHEWS, C J	1390	KUNSTMAN, RICHARD W
1331	KLEIN, JEFFREY	1391	FORBES, WILLIAM E.
1332	RODRIGUEZ, MANUAL	1392	JONES, NINA
1333	SAVE THE REDWOODS LEAGUE	1393	FRESNO CITY COLLEGE
1334	MC KEE, ROBERT A	1394	KONVALIN, E. E. BUCK
1335	DAILY, MARY H.	1395	SALLEE, ART
1336	EATON, DENNIS	1396	BAILES, VIRGINIA
1337	KERN, BARBARA	1397	SEQUOIA FOREST INDUSTRIES
1338	STARRY, MIKE	1398	MC LEAN, RITA
1339	BLOSSOM, H. JOHN	1399	HUDDLESTON, SYLVIA
1340	TREBER, TERRY A.	1400	HUDDLESTON, TED
1341	DERDIVANIS, JOHN P.	1401	SHANKS, ROBERT L.
1342	KAMAN BEARING & SUPPLY CORP	1402	MORRIS, JAMES
1343	JESSUP, GEORGE	1403	MORRIS, DOROTHY I.
1344	REEVES, TED	1404	MORGAN, WARREN & LAURA
1345	IVEY, SANDY	1405	REED, RICHARD & MARLYS
1346	KERRISON, RICHARD	1406	WHITSON, STANLEY
1347	SMITH, DARWYNE	1407	DASHNAW, MRS. WALT
1348	TAXPAYERS ASSOC OF MADERA COUNTY	1408	DASHNAW, WALT
1349	SMITH, JOAN	1409	BAILES, CLIFF
1350	UNRUH VALLEY TRANSPORT	1410	PETTES, RUTH
1351	PITZER COLLEGE	1411	RYAN, RICHARD & ROBIN
1352	TUFTS, JEFFREY C.	1412	REYNOUD, ERNA G
1353	CZAJA, MICHAEL	1413	FLY FISHERMAN FOR CONSERVATION
1354	ROCKING K RANCH	1414	DUNLOP, K
1355	OTTEM PETROLEUM, INC	1415	CAVIN, BENTON C
1356	COGBURN, MARK A.	1416	GOLDEN BELL MINING CORP.
1357	CHAPMAN, CAROL	1417	BOLT, RANDALL
1358	ULMAN, BARBARA	1418	MC DOWELL, ROBERT
1359	MEEKS, RAYBURN	1419	DEWEY, SUSAN RENEE
1360	HIGH SIERRA STOCK USERS ASSOC.	1420	BRISTOL, MARY
1361	COGBURN LOGGING, INC.	1421	BROWRIDGE, GEORGE W.
1362	COLES, K	1422	COULTER, BARBARA
1363	ZANE, BURKE	1423	FOURWHEEL DRIVE CLUB OF FRESNO
1364	JONES, BILL, CALIF. ST. ASSEMBLY	1424	MC KEE, LORETTA
1365	SANGER HERALD	1425	BOISE, MARY J.
1366	SIERRA CLUB, SAN FRAN CHAPTER	1426	MC DOUGLAD, SANDRA
1367	HARTNETT, KRISTINE	1427	KNOWLES, LLOREE
1368	T & T TRUCKING	1428	PATTERSON, HENRIETTA & THOMAS
1369	MENDERHAUSEN, ANN	1429	CUMMINGS, ELIZABETH
1370	CHASTAIN, HOWARD R	1430	BARNES, ILA
1371	MERCED CANYON COMMITTEE	1431	BETTY, BARBARA
1372	BIG SANDY RANCHERIA	1432	CUNNINGHAM, AL
1373	SMITH, RACHAEL	1433	COELHO, CHARLES
1374	GRADWOHL, MARGARET S	1434	NORTH FORK MONO TRIBE
1375	MARTIN, DEBBY	1435	JAMES, DEBORAH
1376	SMITH, JAMES & CORNELIA	1436	ELANDER, ELEANOR
1377	KIZER, SUSAN	1437	LARSEN, FRANK VOGT
1378	MADSEN, DANA	1438	SHAINBERG, PEGGY
1379	SYDORIAK, SHARISSE	1439	CAL, JOHNNY
1380	SYDORIAK, WALTER	1440	U S. DEPT OF INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
1381	WRIGHT, LETA	1441	GOODRICH, CORA

1442	STALDER, RICK	1503	BEARINGS, INC.
1443	WOO, JIM	1504	BERNARDI, RICK
1444	MC LEAN, DOUGLAS	1505	MANLY, TIMOTHY R.
1445	GALLOWAY, LYNN	1506	RHUDY, LISA
1446	FREEMAN, SUSANNAH	1507	FOUCH ENTERPRISES
1447	HEISDORF, PETE	1508	ABRAMS, RICHARD
1448	FIRLMAN, AUDREY	1509	KUST, RICHARD
1449	NELSON, LAWRENCE	1510	TORRES, BARBARA
1450	ROWE, MRS. R	1511	BARNES, TIMOTHY G.
1451	MOORE, SUSAN D.	1512	YOSEMITE PARK AND CURRY CO.
1452	KIRSCH, KEVIN & PAMELA	1513	BERNARDI, CARL & NANCY
1453	CUMMINGS, R A SUE	1514	ISAAC, PAMELA
1454	SALICK, RENEE	1515	BARKER, BETSY
1455	HAYESLIDE, BARBARA	1516	DEWOODY, CHARLES
1456	JACOBS, SHELLEY	1517	LYTLE, MRS THOMAS T.
1457	PRATT, WILLIAM R.	1518	CHILDS, HENRY
1458	CREIGHTON, DOROTHY	1519	YAMADA, MERILYNN
1459	CUNNINGHAM, PAULINE AND ALFRED	1520	CALIFORNIA TROUT
1460	HERSHBERGER, JOHN	1521	JOHNSON, HEATHER
1461	STEWART, ED	1522	KEMPER, LEWIS
1462	LINDQUIST, SUSAN	1523	WARNER, NANCY E
1463	LEVIN, ALAN	1524	KROHN, JEFFREY C.
1464	DENNING, KARYN J	1525	TREBER, CRAIG
1465	LIEBES, LINDA & SID	1526	MARIETTE, MARTI
1466	ROWE, CHARLES & ALMA	1527	JONES, JEFF
1467	MICEK, PATRICK	1528	BECK, STEPHEN L.
1468	BEAVERWOOD PRODUCTS	1529	LUNDQUIST, CAROL
1469	ESKELSEN, KIRBY R	1530	PARDY, LINDA
1470	JOHNSON, NORMAN	1531	YORGANJIAN, MS VARVAR
1471	SANDERS, GEORGE	1532	ERLICH, SUSAN
1472	RANK, CHARLES	1533	SIERRA CLUB, TEHIPITE CHAPTER
1473	COELHO, MARILYN	1534	U.S. DEPT OF INTERIOR, OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
1474	DIERBERGER, BARBARA	1535	NE. CALIFORNIANS FOR WILDERNESS
1475	BANKS, L. T. AND MRS	1536	CARLTON, ALAN
1476	MORGAN, GEORGE E	1537	HART, JOHN
1477	NOVELL, DAVID	1538	HOOVER, FRANNIE
1478	BARNES, PAUL	1539	ELOESSER, NINA
1479	THOMAS, C J	1540	MOLARSKY, MARGARET G.
1480	WILSON, SHARON	1541	COHEN, WENDY L.
1481	WILCOX, LARRY	1542	STATE OF CALIF , BD. OF FORESTRY
1482	ERBERTA, MRS K J	1543	STATE OF CALIF , GOVERNORS OFFICE
1483	FLORY, ROBYN	1544	KELLEY, RICH
1484	GAAL, STEVE	1545	LEVY, JOHN
1485	HAMMOND, PAMELA & JONES, DUANE	1546	SCHMELZER, ROBERT & SHIRLEY
1486	KROHN, LEANE	1547	TORRES, RAMON
1487	TIPTON, H.O.	1548	DAVIS, JEROME H.
1488	TIPTON, MARCIE	1549	COURTNEY, JIM
1489	DARLING, MERLE	1550	AUDUBON SOCIETY, YOSEMITE AREA
1490	STEBBING, FLORENCE	1551	ROSCZYK, MARY LOU
1491	HUGHES, MARIE	1552	MILLER, R. A.
1492	SEQUOIA FOREST PRODUCTS	1553	READY, DAVID
1493	GOODWIN, KENNETH	1554	MORRIS, JOSEPH
1494	SAMPSON, SUZANNE	1555	HIRT, MADELEINE
1495	INFUSIMO, THOMAS	1556	BROCKMANN, LES
1496	RIESER, CRAIG	1557	KO, CAROL
1497	EMMERT, DOC	1558	BERENS, ANDREW
1498	BRYAN, ROLAND F.	1559	PINSKY, DAVID
1499	BRITZ FERTILIZERS, INC	1560	LEE, RAYMOND
1500	GLEN BRANTLEY	1561	SLOSS, ANTHONY
1501	AL THOMAS TRUCKING	1562	MOREY, KATHY
1502	GREEN, DAN, TRUCKING		

1563	BIBBENS, L	1623	JOHNSON, JUDITH
1564	WALMSLEY, JOHN	1624	NOEL, ELLEN
1565	COURTEMANCHE, BOB	1625	DIERBERGER, DONALD
1566	WAHL, SIENA	1626	ELLIS, RONALD D.
1567	TRACY, TERRY	1627	SMITH, E. MATT
1568	SIKORA, MARILYN	1628	BRECHBUEHL, ROBIN
1569	DOERKSEN, R	1629	STARNER, JULIANNE
1570	NORIHICIO, MICK	1630	RICHIE, GEORGINA
1571	GOITEIN, ERNEST E	1631	GITCHEL, SAM
1572	KENT, MARTY	1632	ROBERTS, NILES
1573	CHRONIAK, STEVE	1633	GIBBS, MICHAEL
1574	MENDEL, DAWN	1634	HILLCREST LOGGING, INC.
1575	FINNIGAN, MOIRA	1635	HUNTER, AVENS
1576	KNIGHT, CHRISTOPHER W	1636	KRAL, VICTOR ERIC
1577	FOLEY, TIMOTHY	1637	NELSON, CLAIR E.
1578	HUIZENGA, DICK, TRUCKING	1638	LAUTERBACH, AMY
1579	BONNY, CHARLES	1639	HEBERT, ROBERTA
1580	SAN GABRIEL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION	1640	EMMERT, PATRICK
1581	WESTERN WOOD PRODUCT ASSOCIATION	1641	SKURNIK, DAVE
1582	LIPA, STEVE	1642	ANDERSON, LAUREL
1583	O'CONNELL, KATHLEEN	1643	PETERSEN, STAN
1584	DOUGHERTY, J. ROBERT	1644	MC NULTY, MAUREEN
1585	RECKAS, JOAN	1645	LANTING, AUDREY
1586	ANONYMOUS	1646	FRESNO COUNTY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING DIV. WORKS & SERV. DEPT.
1587	SCHREIBER, DOLORES	1647	KVN-ROBERTS, INC.
1588	JONES, JOHNNY	1648	KLAUS, KITLIE
1589	SEASTROM, DOUG	1649	GREEN, GRETA
1590	SAN JOAQUIN KENWORTH	1650	HUNTER, AVENS
1591	WILSON, SHIRLEY A.	1651	DIAMOND PLATE, INC
1592	MORRILL, CHRIS	1652	BANKA, WILLIAM J.
1593	KENNEDY, D LOUIS	1653	FRIENDS OF DINKEY CREEK
1594	SMITH, MALLORY	1654	FETTERS, HAROLD M
1595	SIERRA CLUB, TEHIPITE CHAPTER	1655	BAKER, MICHAEL
1596	MELLANA, DONNA	1656	WILLHELM, LEE
1597	BRECHBUEHL, RICHARD	1657	BULLER, BETH
1598	HYSON, DONNA	1658	VAN WAGTENDONK, JAN
1599	KABISCH, SALLY	1659	WOOD, HARRY JR.
1600	SMALLEN, BOBBIE	1660	FISKE, JOHN J.
1601	SIERRA ASSOC. FOR ENVIRONMENT	1661	AMFAC ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO
1602	MATTHEWS, JERRY	1662	DRIFKA, RONALD C.
1603	PARRISH, JANET	1663	HELSEY, ANDY
1604	MC MAHON, JOHN & MRS	1664	BERSIN, DIANE LELSI
1605	MOW, JEFF	1665	DE GRIESE, MARIA
1606	MATTESON, WILLIAM & GAIL	1666	SKURNIK, THERESA
1607	LYONS, ROBERT	1667	SIERRA CLUB, SAN FRAN. CHAPTER
1608	HOFFMAN, ED	1668	DROZ, BRUCE
1609	PARKER, GWEN CHASE	1669	THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY, SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CHAPTER
1610	RASMUSSEN, JOHN	1670	MOUNTJOY, BOB & JAN
1611	LYON, LISA	1671	CHRISTENSEN, JACK
1612	LEWIS, JR , RAY E.	1672	HENDERSON, BARBARA
1613	SMITH TANK LINES	1673	ASHAMALLA, ROSEMARIE
1614	LINNEY ASSOCIATES	1674	BENNETT, LARRY E
1615	SEAL AND PACKING SUPPLY	1675	RABIN, SYD
1616	GOULD, ERNEST	1676	REED, GARY
1617	MATTESON, MUIR	1677	SWARD, LINDA
1618	BURGESS, HARRIET HUNT	1678	HARDY, DOUGLLAS
1619	GRAZING PERMITTEES OF THE SNF	1679	SUMMERS, BARBARA AND FAMILY
1620	NELSON, CHARLES F.	1680	BOHIGIAN, THOMAS J.
1621	PICKETT, OSCAR		
1622	MARKLE, GRETCHEN & JEFFREY		

1681	DITTMER, HAROLD	1741	BRYSON, JULIETTE A
1682	SCENIC SHORELINE PRESERV. CONF.	1742	WHITAKER, PAM
1683	SKEELE, TOM	1743	ROBERTS, W. T.
1684	MITCHELL, ROGER K	1744	CHEEPO, JACK
1685	KING, CONNIE	1745	CHEEPO, ADRIAN
1686	BALCOM, MARK D	1746	LEWIS, RICHARD
1687	BARCLAY, DOROTHY	1747	ORBAKER, RONNIE
1688	GOODWIN LUMBER CO	1748	WINGO, W.H JR
1689	BOSLICH, BRUCE	1749	MC DONALD, ALVIN
1690	BILLINGS, ROBERT	1750	HALE, DIANA M
1691	SULLIVAN, MIKE	1751	ORVIS, MARIAN
1692	DIMITRE, MARIJO	1752	BOWEN, STEPHEN
1693	LEIN, LARKETTE	1753	KELLY, GLENN
1694	WHIPPS, MIKE	1754	GROTE, CURTIS
1695	WOLAR, GLYNNE G.	1755	HUNTINGTON LAKE LUMBER COMPANY
1696	CALIF. ASSOC. OF 4-WD CLUBS	1756	COON, SUSAN L
1697	HALL, KEITH W	1757	BLECHAR, SANDRA & JEFF
1698	HALENCAK, JOE	1758	BROCK, NORMAN
1699	GARZA, JOHN G	1759	MELCHER, KEN, TRUCKING
1700	DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE	1760	GREEN, B. J., TRUCKING
1701	SIERRA VALLEY INTL. TRUCKS, INC.	1761	PINES RESORT
1702	SEQUOIA FOREST INDUSTRIES	1762	PIERSON, LUCY HUNT
1703	NORBY LUMBER COMPANY, INC.	1763	DALE'S AUTO & DIESEL REPAIR, INC.
1704	SPRATT, JOHN	1764	HORG, WILLIAM & MRS.
1705	MILLER, ELIZABETH	1765	DIAZ, DANIEL
1706	MILLER, RUSSELL S	1766	WILMOTH-CHAMP TRUCKING, INC
1707	BOYER, NED	1767	HOOVER, VICTORIA N.
1708	LEWIS, JOHN C	1768	COLLIVER, GRANT & MARY
1709	YOFFE, BONNIE	1769	HOPKINS, KAREN MARIE
1710	SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS, HIGH SIERRA CHAPTER	1770	MC CUTCHEON, LAURA N
1711	WESTERN TIMBER ENGINEERING	1771	BARTLETT, PAUL & MARY
1712	VANDERVOET, DAVID	1772	MULLEN, PHILIP G
1713	FLETCHER, A. L	1773	SPENCE, MIKE
1714	SEQUOIA SKYLINE, INC	1774	DALE ULSH LOGGING
1715	PERLSTEIN, JOEL T.	1775	KANNE, ROBERT M.
1716	CALIF. NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY	1776	DILLON, DIANE M.
1717	CALIF. DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME	1777	NO CALIF. FED. OF FLY FISHERS
1718	COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE KINGS RIVER	1778	RICHARDS, MARK
1719	HELLING, FRANK	1779	MAASKANT, NICK
1720	BROCK, TIM	1780	LEWIS, ROGER
1721	OTTERS, GOLDIE	1781	WISSEMAN, TONY
1722	RUSSELL, RAE	1782	BROWN, HARVEY
1723	WINKENBACK, CHRISTIAN	1783	MERCED FLYFISHING CLUB
1724	FIORETTA, JOHN	1784	AZEVEDO & SON TRUCKING CO
1725	STEINBERG, MARIA & ROBERT	1785	MULLIGAN, PAUL M.
1726	WINKLE, P.G.	1786	MINTON, JAMES L
1727	DOERKSEN TRUCKING	1787	LEYDECKER, AL
1728	SPENCE, PAULA M.	1788	ROY, RUTH
1729	CLOVIS COMMUNITY BANK	1789	NOLAND, KATHY
1730	STEPHENS, RUTH A	1790	HARDER, THOMAS J
1731	DUNN, WALT & MAURINE	1791	NEMZER, LISA
1732	DEUTSCH, BARBARA & BARRY	1792	PASADENA CITY COLLEGE
1733	WHITMORE, GEORGE W & NANCY A	1793	ELDRIDGE, JANER
1734	DEMPSEY, THOMAS	1794	BENNET, GARY
1735	BEELEY, KAY	1795	CALDWELL, DWAYNE
1736	NORBY, RICHARD A.	1796	PEELE TRANSPORT SYSTEMS
1737	SCHALDACH, TIM	1797	CALIF ASSOC OF 4-WD CLUBS
1738	ROSEDALE, RALPH	1798	MTN LION PRESERVATION FOUNDATION
1739	LIPA, BOB	1799	TUESCHER, TED
1740	LIPA, FAY	1800	JOHNSON, ROBERT T.
		1801	CONLAN, JOAN

1802	MOSCARELLA, LINDA & AL	1835	HEUBERT, BEN
1803	RARIG, JOHN & JEAN	1836	NEWTON, KARL
1804	MOORE, JOHN K.	1837	AHRENDES, CARL
1805	GREEN, JR., G G	1838	ROGALSKY, JOHN
1806	BUFORD, RANDY	1839	BACKES, MICHAEL
1807	YOSHIOKA, GLEN	1840	HEMMAN, BUD
1808	ALBERTA, JOSEPH J. & MICHAEL W.	1841	MOUTLER, BILL
1809	ROWE, RICHARD	1842	MOUTLER, LOUANNA
1810	THOMPSON, ANDY	1843	LARSON, JEANNE
1811	CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION	1844	FISKE, JOHN
1812	BOUQUIN, DAVID	1845	CAVIN, KEN
1813	ANGUS, LAURIE	1846	OLSSON, STANLEY
1814	FERGUSON, T , B., & C.	1847	HELLING, FRANK
1815	WETTSTEIN, G., M., & A	1848	ANONYMOUS
1816	WRIGHT, GRAHAM J.	1849	ANONYMOUS
1817	STONE, JEFF	1850	JONES, STEVEN
1818	KALLMAN, GEORGE	1851	DIERBERGER, DON
1819	WESTERN FOREST INDUSTRIES ASSOC.	1852	WILLIAMS, LOU
1820	BARKI, DAN	1853	ROGERS, GARY
1821	STRAUSS, GEORGE	1854	VAN HUSS, MARK
1822	SHAPLEY, LLOYD & MARION	1855	ANONYMOUS EMPLOYEE
1823	ULTEN, TERESA	1856	BISHOP, JERRY
1824	MARTIN, RENA	1857	HENRY, J V
1825	BAGGET, ART	1858	BALLEW, LARRY
1826	GALLI, BUD	1859	SIKORA, CHARLES
1827	BALL, CHERYL	1860	WARD, GERALD
1828	BLANKENSHIP, CAROL	1861	JOHNSON, JIM
1829	SOMMERVILLE, JOHN	1862	TIMMONS, CATHY
1830	RUSCHAAPT, BUD	1863	HAAS, RICHARD
1831	STURM, GRANT	1864	VILLA
1832	CRILL, MIKE	1865	SNOW SUMMIT
1833	SPARROW, CLIFF	1866	U S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
1834	COLLINS, GUS		AGENCY

TABLE T.06 - ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF RESPONDENTS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
ABRAMS, RICHARD	1508
ABREW, SHARON	0246
ACEVEDO, ROBERT	0738
ACOSTA, ALFRED	0380
ACREE, MARTIN	1271
ADAMS, RICK	0891
AGUAYO, SALVADOR	0925
AGUIRRE, FERNIE	0903
AHRENDES, CARL	1837
AHRENS, DONALD	0573
AHRENS, JUDY	0321
ALBERTA, JOSEPH J. & MICHAEL W.	1808
ALBIE GAYLORD INC	0356
ALBRECHT, NORMAN	0736
ALCAPE, ART	0794
ALEX, REBECCA	0007
ALEXANDER, GREGG	0163
ALEXANDER, LINDA & BILL	0845
ALL COAST FOREST PRODUCTS, INC	0397
ALLEN, LEON	0503
ALLEN, ROBERT	0937
ALLEN, TIM	0567
ALLEN, WAYNE	0519
ALLMAN, JAMES N.	1136
ALSTON, RONNIE	0434
ALVARADO, RAUL	0480
ALVAREZ, MATT	0798
AMERICAN VIDEO	0325
AMFAC ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO.	1661
ANDERS, R.	0514
ANDERSON, LAUREL	1642
ANDERSON, MARK	0684
ANDERSON, RICHARD	0988
ANDERSON, STEPHEN P	1044
ANGEL, JOHN	1141
ANGUS, LAURIE	1813
ANONYMOUS, CORRINE	0599
ANONYMOUS	1586
ANONYMOUS	1848
ANONYMOUS	1849
ANONYMOUS EMPLOYEE	1855
APODACA, BARBARA	1090
APODACA, LARRY	0622
APPELT, KENNETH	0036
ARATA, JOHN H.	0472
ARAVE, WILLIAM L.	0296
ARCATA FOREST PRODUCTS COMPANY	0303
ARDITTI, PECKNER	0951
ARRETCHÉ, JEAN P	0458
ARROYO, ARTURO	0915
ARROYO, JOAQUIN	0164
ARROYO, RICK	0473
ARROYO, JR., SAMUEL	0639
Sierra National Forest	

ASAMI, JILL	0179
ASHAMALLA, ROSEMARIE	1673
ASMAR, CHARLIE	0725
AUBERRY BUILDERS SUPPLY	1043
AUBERRY UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	0070
AUDUBON SOCIETY, NAPA/SOLANO	0540
AUDUBON SOCIETY, YOSEMITE AREA	1550
AYALA, FRANK	0895
AYALA, THEODORE J	0449
AYAYAN, C.	0892
AYERS, DON	0385
AZEVEDO & SON TRUCKING CO.	1784
B & B BUILDERS SUPPLY & HARDWARE	0471
B & R SHEET METAL, INC.	0477
B & T HYDRAULICS	0451
BACKES, MICHAEL	1839
BAGGET, ART	1825
BAILES, CLIFF	1409
BAILES, VIRGINIA	1396
BAILEY, PHIL	0706
BAKER, MICHAEL	1655
BAKER, REBEKAH	0241
BALCOM, MARK D.	1686
BALES, VIRGINIA	1235
BALL, CHERYL	1827
BALLEW, LARRY	1858
BALMAIN, DOUG M.	0316
BANKA, WILLIAM J	1652
BANKER, FRANKLIN L.	0962
BANKS, L. T. & MRS.	1475
BARBA, D	0875
BARCLAY, DOROTHY	1687
BARKER, BETSY	1515
BARKI, DAN	1820
BARNES, ILA	1430
BARNES, PAUL	1478
BARNES, TIMOTHY G.	1511
BARTLETT, PAUL & MARY	1771
BARTLEY, JAMES A.	1294
BASS LAKE ENTERPRISES, INC	1149
BASYE, RON	0743
BATEY, CAROL	1188
BAUM, RUDY	0995
BAUN, WALTER	0299
BEAMAN, WARREN	0506
BEARD, M. E.	1095
BEARD, SUSAN	1385
BEARINGS, INC.	1503
BEAVERWOOD PRODUCTS	1468
BECERRS, JOSEPH	0159
BECK, HOPE	1079
BECK, STEPHEN L	1528
BECKHUIS, JAN	0213
BEECHER, WILBUR	0580
BEELEY, KAY	1735
BEITTEW, B.	0755
BELL, RICH	1159
BELLO, ROBIN	1007

BELLO, TEDDY	0737	BOWMAN, ANDREA	0046
BELTRAN, RYAN	0878	BOWMAN, ROBERT	1121
BENNER, MARLENE	0031	BOYER, NED	1707
BENNET, GARY	1794	BOYLAN, RICHARD	0778
BENNETT, LARRY E	1674	BRADY, ALAN & JOANNE	1281
BERENS, ANDREW	1558	BRAMAN, GARY	0061
BERENSMEIER, JEAN	1243	BRANNON, GENE	0392
BERG, OTTO	0416	BRANTLEY, GLEN	1500
BERGMAN, CARL D.	1172	BRECHBUEHL, RICHARD	1597
BERNARDI, CARL & NANCY	1513	BRECHBUEHL, ROBIN	1628
BERNARDI, RICK	1504	BREMMERMAN, JOHN	0604
BERNHART, URSULA A.	0940	BRESHEARS, W H., INC.	0556
BERNSTEIN, IRINA	0274	BREWER, ELSIE	0820
BERRIDGE, TOM	0986	BRICKNER, JOHN J.	0277
BERRY, JR., R J, INC	1229	BRICKNER, NORMA C	0276
BERSIN, DIANE LELSI	1664	BRIDENBAUGH, JOHN	0923
BESHARSE, JAMES	0546	BRIDGES, GENE	1209
BETTY, DOUG	1236	BRISTOL, MARY	1420
BETTY, BARBARA	1431	BRITZ FERTILIZERS, INC.	1499
BETUNCOURT, HENRY	0788	BROCK, NORMAN	1758
BEVAN, BETTY	1065	BROCK, TIM	1720
BEVAN, KEITH	1303	BROCKMANN, LES	1556
BIBBENS, L	1563	BROOKS, VIOLA M	1102
BIEBER, LILLIAN	0291	BROWN, HARVEY	1782
BIG CREEK SCHOOL	0176	BROWN, LARRY	0626
BIG SANDY RANCHERIA	1372	BROWN, RICK	0802
BILLINGS, ROBERT	1690	BROWN, VICTOR C	1195
BISHOP, JANINE	0118	BROWRIDGE, GEORGE W.	1421
BISHOP, JERRY	1856	BRUCE, DUSTIN	0180
BISSETT, LESTER & ELIZABETH	0921	BRYAN, ROLAND F.	1498
BLAKE, EUGENE & DOROTHY	0248	BRYANT, RICH	0484
BLAKE, ROBERT E.	1197	BRYSON, JULIETTE A	1741
BLANCAS, TED	0754	BUCKHOUT, STEPHEN	1047
BLANKENSHIP, CAROL	1828	BUCKINGHAM, JACK	0764
BLECHA, ROBERT	1138	BUCKLIN, RUTH	0999
BLECHAR, SANDRA & JEFF	1757	BUCKNER, RAILI	0233
BLITZER, JAMIE	1263	BUFORD, RANDY	1806
BLOCK, P. L.	1142	BUGG, CHARLES	0897
BLOCKER, HOLLY	0152	BULLER, BETH	1657
BLOSSOM, H JOHN	1339	BULLER, HAROLD	0770
BLY, EDWIN E	0867	BURGESS, HARRIET HUNT	1618
BOCA, FRANK	0701	BURLEY, VIRGINIA	1017
BOESEL, JOHN	0914	BURNS, MATHEW	0187
BOGDON, TOM	0671	BURON, MRS. AND STUDENTS	0039
BOHIGIAN, THOMAS J	1680	BURT, JACK W.	1171
BOHLEN, CAROL	0930	BUSTAMANTE, JOE	0521
BOISE, MARY J.	1425	BUSTAMANTE, MANUEL	0726
BOLKER, WENDY	0827	BUTLER, GEORGE	0801
BOLLOCK, STEVEN	0808	BUTSKO, STEPHEN	0273
BOLT, RANDALL	1417	BYRD, LYLE	0884
BONNY, CHARLES	1579	CAL, JOHNNY	1439
BORRESEN, LARS	0062	CAL STATE TRUCKING CO , INC.	0323
BOISE CASCADE CORP	0284	CALDWELL, DWAYNE	1795
BOSLICH, BRUCE	1689	CALDWELL, JOHN	0023
BOTTAN, KEN	0044	CALENDAR FIRE PROTECTION	0994
BOTTOMS, JERRY, SR	0768	CALIF. ASSOC OF 4-WD CLUBS	1696
BOUQUIN, DAVID	1812	CALIF. ASSOC. OF 4-WD CLUBS	1797
BOWEN, STEPHEN	1752		

CALIF ASSOC OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED	1177	CHILDERS, WARREN & BLANCHE	1298
CALIF. DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME	1717	CHILDS, HENRY	1518
CALIF. LICENSED FORESTERS ASSOC	0387	CHRIST, KATHY A.	1014
CALIF SAVE OUR STREAMS COUNCIL	0688	CHRISTENSEN, JACK	1671
CALIF. STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY	0085	CHRONIAK, STEVE	1573
CALIF. STATE UNIV., NORTHRIDGE	0261	CHRONISTER, KEEVA	0174
CALIFORNIA-FRESNO OIL CO	0265	CIMINO, RICH	1389
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY	1055	CIRCLE W RANCH	0545
CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING PROTECTION ALLIANCE	1231	CITY OF REEDLEY	0309
CALIFORNIA TROUT	1520	CLAPP, ATLEE	0853
CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION	1811	CLARK, SANDRYA	0609
CALKINS, RICHARD	0950	CLARKE, JACKIE	0876
CALPINE CONTAINERS, INC	0470	CLEVENGER, RALPH	0050
CALPINE CONTAINERS, INC	0508	CLINE, RICHARD J	0559
CAMERON, JOHN	0262	CLINE, RICHARD L	0560
CAMPBELL, JIM	0924	CLORNIER, GEORGE	1009
CANO, RUBEN	0709	CLOVIS COMMUNITY BANK	1729
CANTRELL, AMOS L.	0628	COBB, CHRISTOPHER	0620
CARLIN, KEVIN	0171	COBB, CLIFF	0630
CARLSON, DARIN PAUL	1131	COBB, ERIN	0137
CARLSON, EDGAR	0193	COBB, MAURICE M	0687
CARLTON, ALAN	1536	COCHRAN, GUY R	0341
CARMER, DEBBIE	0577	COCHRAN CONSTRUCTION	1140
CARNEY, AMANDA	0136	COELHO, CHARLES	1433
CARPENTER, ROBERT A.	0582	COELHO, MARILYN	1473
CARPENTER, SCOTT	0992	COGBURN, MARK A.	1356
CARR, KATHLEEN	0054	COGBURN LOGGING, INC	1361
CARROLL, JOHN F.	0517	COHEN, CINDY	0234
CARTER, MARGARET	0153	COHEN, WENDY L.	1541
CARVER, LARRY	0020	COLE, BILL	0619
CASSIDY, ANN	0976	COLE, FRANK	0182
CATLIN, RALPH	0984	COLE, MARYANNE	0077
CATRON, MICHAEL	0371	COLES, K.	1362
CAVIN, BENTON C	1415	COLLINS, GUS	1834
CAVIN, KEN	1845	COLLINS GRADING & TRUCKING	0685
CAZARES, YGNACIO	1206	COLLINS PINE CO.	0280
CELAYA, VICTOR J.	0357	COLLIVER, GRANT & MARY	1768
CENTRAL VALLEY CULLIGAN	0301	COMER, JUDY	0499
CENTRAL WEST PRODUCE	0790	COMMERCIAL TRANSFER INC.	0285
CEPEDA, MIGUEL	0879	COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE KINGS RIVER	1718
CHANDLER, THOMAS	0167	CONLAN, JOAN	1801
CHANEY, DONALD E	0329	CONNELLA, JIM L.	1042
CHAPMAN, CAROL	1357	CONSTABLE, VIRGINIA A	0518
CHAPMAN, MICHAEL & MRS	0840	CONSTANTIN, RAYMOND	0532
CHASTAIN, HOWARD R.	1370	CONTOS, MICHELE	0237
CHASTAIN, VELMA	0263	CONTRERAS, RON	0935
CHAVEZ, VICTOR J.	0111	CONVEYCO SALES CORP.	0475
CHAVIRA, ART	0424	COOK, GIANNA	0123
CHAVIRA, REYNALDO	0425	COOK, TOM	0527
CHEEPO, ADRIAN	1745	COON, SUSAN L.	1756
CHEEPO, JACK	1744	CORNELIUSON, PHILLIP P	0767
CHEN, SUSAN	0110	CORNETT, JACK	0597
CHEPO, LAWRENCE	0589	CORNETT, O.	1157
CHESMORE, WILLIAM	0419	CORSI, BUFF	0045
CHILDERS, CLARK	0585	CORTESE, TONY	0384
CHILDERS, RICHARD	0587	CORTEZ, MIGUEL	0366
		CORTEZ, MIKE	0658
		CORWIN, PHIL	1175

COSSEY, TOM	1277	DINUBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	0772
COSTA, JIM, CALIF STATE ASSEMBLY	0319	DINUBA LUMBER CO.	0747
COTTON, MIKE	0390	DINUBA TIMBER INDUSTRIES	0381
COTTON, TOM	0364	DITTMER, HAROLD	1681
COULTER, BARBARA	1422	DOAN, HUY	0088
COURTEMANCHE, BOB	1565	DOANE, JAY S.	1256
COURTNEY, JIM	1549	DODGE, MATT	0613
COUSINS, RICHARD S	1230	DOERKSEN, R	1569
COVERDALE, EDWARD	1082	DOERKSEN BUILDING MATERIALS	1054
COWAN, BILLY	0377	DOERKSEN TRUCKING	1727
COWLEY, MARJORIE	1173	DOERSCHLAG, DONALD J	0468
COX, RICHARD	0579	DORAN, BONNIE L	1273
CRAIG, MICHAEL	0721	DOUGHERTY, J ROBERT	1584
CRILL, MIKE	1832	DOWELL, PEGGY S	1056
CROOK, STEVEN L	0245	DOWN RIVER INTERNATIONAL, INC	0511
CUNNINGHAM, PAULINE & ALFRED	1459	DOZIER, FORREST	0522
CREIGHTON, DOROTHY	1458	DRIFKA, RONALD C	1662
CZAJA, MICHAEL	1353	DROZ, BRUCE	1668
DARLING, MERLE	1489	DUNLOP, K.	1414
DARLING, DOUG	0224	DUNN, WALT & MAURINE	1731
DASHNAW, MRS WALT	1407	DURAN, DANNY	0838
DASHNAW, WALT	1408	DURAN, JIMMY	0644
DAVID, JOHN E	1029	DURAN, MANUEL	0810
DAVIS, AILEEN	0435	DURYEE, EDNA	0264
DAVIS, BYRON	0453	DURYEE, MARY	0022
DAVIS, DANIEL	0501	DUYSEN, LARRY	0317
DAVIS, JEROME H	1548	DYER, GEORGE & FAMILY	1269
DAVIS, TED	0549	DYER, NELIA	0144
DAVIS, TIM	0293	EARLYGROWN, RAVEN	0973
DAVIS, TIM A	0637	EATON, DENNIS	1336
DAWDY, KEN	1021	EBERLE, JAMES	0596
DE GRIESE, MARIA	1665	EBERLE, LISA	0716
DE JAGER, BILL	0059	EDELMAN, PAUL	1037
DE ROUCHEY, ROBERT A.	1109	EDLEN, LINN D	0784
DEAN, MEREDITH	0857	EGOIAN, ALICE	0132
DEAN FILTER & SUPPLY, INC.	0295	EICHHORN, RONALD W	0651
DEAUVILLE, PAUL M	1187	EICKHORN, VALERIE	0605
DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE	1700	ELANDER, ELEANOR	1436
DEL TERRA, INC	0333	ELDER, J.W	0901
DEMPSEY, THOMAS	1734	ELDRIDGE, JANER	1793
DENNING, KARYN J.	1464	ELECTRIC MOTOR SHOP	0864
DEPEW, DAVE	1143	ELIJONDO, LEONEL	0401
DERDIVANIS, JOHN P	1341	ELLIOT, WILLIAM R	0487
DEUTSCH, BARBARA & BARRY	1732	ELLIOTT, CHARLES	0699
DEWEY, SUSAN RENEE	1419	ELLIOTT, MELISSA	0158
DEWITT, SOPHIA	0130	ELLIOTT, WILLIAM F & ALICE D.	0282
DEWOODY, CHARLES	1516	ELLIOTT, GEORGE	1185
DIAMOND PLATE, INC	1651	ELLIOTT, WARD	1066
DIAZ, AUGUSTINE	0920	ELLIS, RONALD D.	1626
DIAZ, DANIEL	1765	ELLIS, STEPHEN	0663
DIAZ, JOE	0918	ELLISON, JACK	1098
DICKEN, T	0928	ELLISON CO.	0429
DIERBERGER, BARBARA	1474	ELOESSER, NINA	1539
DIERBERGER, DON	1851	EMMERT, DOC	1497
DIERBERGER, DONALD	1625	EMMERT, FRANCIS	0929
DILLON, DIANE M	1776	EMMERT, PATRICK	1640
DIMITRE, MARIJO	1692	ENDO, DAVID	0161
DIMITRE, TOM	0861	ENGEL, ELTON D	0043

ENGEL, STEVE	1302	FRANCUS, KEN	0204
ENGLAND, THERESA	0912	FRANK WILBER CO	0318
ENNS, CAROL	0890	FRAZIER, THOMAS	0079
ENSAT, R	1025	FRAZIER, VERN	1081
ERBERTA, MRS. K J.	1482	FREEMAN, LEROY	0373
ERICKSON, LARRY	0494	FREEMAN, NICHOLAS	0214
ERLICH, SUSAN	1532	FREEMAN, PHIL	0700
EROPKIN, JONATHAN	0173	FREEMAN, SUSANNAH	1446
ERSKINE, KAREN	0873	FRESNO CITY COLLEGE	1393
ERSKINE, MICHAEL	0376	FRESNO COUNTY, COMMUNITY	
ESCH, BRUCE	0654	DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING DIV.	1646
ESKELSEN, KIRBY R	1469	FRESNO COUNTY, OFFICE OF EDUC.	0058
ESPINOZA, FIDEL	0779	FRESNO COUNTY, PARKS DIVISION	0523
ESTRADA, DOMINGO R	0488	FRESNO COUNTY FARM BUREAU	0814
ESTRADA, EMERSON	0156	FRESNO COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB	1179
EVANS, FAY	0739	FRESNO WIRE ROPE & RIGGING CO.	0672
EWELL, DAVID	0538	FRIANT UNION SCHOOL	0072
EWING, L. B	0041	FRIED, JEREMY	0005
FABRIS, MRS PLENA	1297	FRIENDS OF DINKEY CREEK	1653
FALCON, JIM	0432	FRIENDS OF THE RIVER	0818
FARBER, RICK	0271	FRIESEN, JIMMY	0354
FARLEY, JAMES	0964	FRISCHMAN, LES	1146
FARRIS, MARJORIE & RAGENE	0255	FRONKS MOUNTAIN DRILLING	0312
FELTS, MARGARET	1307	FUDGE, DALE W	0823
FENNELL, GERALD	0769	FUDGE, KEN	1122
FERAM, ROB	1198	FUHRMAN, JONATHAN	1041
FERGUSON, T, B, & C.	1814	FURMAN LUMBER CO.	0649
FERNANDEZ, JOSE	0001	GAAL, STEVE	1484
FERRANTI, THOMAS J.	1267	GABALDON, FRANK	0809
FETTERS, HAROLD M	1654	GABALDON, TINO	0744
FIELD, DOROTHY	1300	GALAVEZ, CLYDE	0439
FINLEY, BRENT	1270	GALLI, BUD	1826
FINLEY, TOBY	0254	GALLOWAY, LYNN	1445
FINNIGAN, MOIRA	1575	GALVANI, III, EDWARD L	0133
FIORETTA, JOHN	1724	GANDUGLIA, VINCENT, TRUCKING	0324
FIRLMAN, AUDREY	1448	GARCIA, AL F.	0593
FISHBACK, JEFF & KAREN	1305	GARCIA, BUTCH	0586
FISKE, JOHN	1844	GARCIA, JAVIER	0661
FISKE, JOHN J.	1660	GARCIA, JOE L.	0400
FISTER, KRIS	1030	GARCIA, PORFIE	0575
FLAHERTY, JAY	1186	GARCIA, REYNALDO	0442
FLECK, MITCHELL R	1268	GARRISON, ANNA	1151
FLEMING, JAMES	0775	GARZA, JOHN G.	1699
FLEMING LOGGING	0462	GARZA, OSCAR	0482
FLETCHER, A. L.	1713	GARZA, R.	0407
FLETCHER, COLIN	0900	GARZA, RAY	0674
FLINN, JEFF	0655	GARZA, ROBERT	0572
FLINN, LEE	0766	GEISLER, DOROTHY	0931
FLORES, PETE	0447	GENETTI, CATHY	0294
FLORY, ROBYN	1483	GIBBLE, ROCKY	0443
FLUID-AIR COMPONENTS, INC.	1059	GIBBS, MICHAEL	1633
FLY FISHERMEN FOR CONSERVATION	1413	GIBSON, JAY O.	1312
FOLEY, TIMOTHY	1577	GIESBACHT, WILLIE	0636
FORBES, WILLIAM E.	1391	GILBERT FOREST PRODUCTS	0430
FORREST, KIM	1318	GILL, JUNE	0017
FOUCH ENTERPRISES	1507	GILMAN, MRS. P.K.	0942
FOURWHEEL DRIVE CLUB OF FRESNO	1423	GINAR, CHRISTIAN	1299
FRAILING, JOHN B	1288	GINSBERG, MERYL	0221
Sierra National Forest			

GITCHEL, SAM	1631	GULLICKSON, CRAIG	0151
GLANDON, CHARLES L.	0441	GUZMAN, HECTOR	0679
GLANZER, CHRIS M.	0676	H.O.S TRUCKING, INC	0423
GLASS, JERRY	0223	HAAS, RICHARD	1863
GLEIM-CROWN PUMP, INC.	1261	HADENFELT, DENNIS	1045
GLICK, DENNIS R	1200	HAFEN, LOREN	0011
GLICKMAN, JEFF	0069	HAGER, RANDY	0350
GODDARD, PAUL W	0250	HALE, BLAINE	0490
GOITEIN, ERNEST E	1571	HALE, CURTIS	0583
GOLDBLATT, ANDY	0002	HALE, DIANA M	1750
GOLDEN BELL MINING CORP	1416	HALE, SR , BOBBY	0571
GOLDING SULLIVAN LUMBER SALES	0386	HALENCAK, JOE	1698
GOLDING SULLIVAN LUMBER SALES	0439	HALL, CARL R. & ELLEN	1034
GOLSETH, ANNE	1027	HALL, KEITH W.	1697
GONZALES, EFRIN	0528	HALL, PATRICIA	0076
GONZALES, ERIC	0093	HALLAMAN, FRANK	0666
GONZALES, GILBERT	0724	HAMILTON, LIZ	0269
GONZALES, JACK	0893	HAMILTON, TED	0311
GONZALES, JOE	0799	HAMMOND, PAMELA & JONES, DUANE	1485
GONZALES, RICHARD	0825	HAMPTON, WALLY	0083
GONZALES, RICHARD A.	0498	HANESS, LESLIE,	1262
GONZALES, SAL	0564	HANEY, MARIELLA P.	0252
GONZALES, MRS SAL	0894	HANNACO KNIVES AND SAWS	1286
GONZALEZ, ISRAEL	0643	HANNAN, ROBERT C & DORIS	0847
GONZALEZ, RUBY	0117	HANSEN, BILL	1384
GONZALEZ, SALVADOR	0485	HANSEN, JASON	0642
GOODRICH, CORA	1441	HANSEN, JOHN	0066
GOODWIN, KENNETH	1493	HARBOTTLE, JERRY	0631
GOODWIN, MARCIA	0240	HARDER, THOMAS J	1790
GOODWIN LUMBER CO	1688	HARDY, DOUGLLAS	1678
GORBET, JAMIE	0257	HARE, DAVID	0667
GORDON, ELLEN	1388	HARE, GLENN	1075
GORHAM, CHRIS	0109	HARKINS, ERIN	0128
GORMAN, COREEN	0208	HARMON, LISA	0126
GOSLIN, DALE	0698	HARPER, ROSALIND	0185
GOULD, ERNEST	1616	HARRIS, MANNING C	0848
GOWEN, AGNES	0902	HARRIS, VIRGINIA-JANE	0985
GRADWOHL, MARGARET S.	1374	HARRISON, R. T.	0603
GRAHAM, JOHN & MRS	0961	HART, JOHN	1537
GRAHAM, PETER	1386	HART, JR., VAN E	1168
GRAY, TRAVIS	0096	HARTNETT, KRISTINE	1367
GRAYLIFT	0315	HARVEY, RICHARDSON B. & MARY L	0898
GRAZING PERMITTEES OF THE SNF	1619	HASCALL, GARY	0916
GREEN, B J., TRUCKING	1760	HARTFIELD, RICK	0601
GREEN, DAN, TRUCKING	1502	HAVLIK, HUGH	0957
GREEN, GRETA	1649	HAWKINS, LEE C.	0459
GREEN, JR , G. G.	1805	HAWKSWORTH, JOHN	1213
GREENE, NANINE H	0750	HAYESLIDE, BARBARA	1455
GREENFIELD, GARY	1039	HAZELTON, EARL	1089
GREENMAN, JESSEA N R.	1022	HERBERT, ROBERTA	1639
GREER, BOB	0673	HEIKES, BONNIE	0228
GREER, JOHN	0670	HEIMLER JAMES	0304
GREGORY, WILLIAM O.	1232	HEINRICHS, EDDIE L.	0883
GRIEL, MICHAEL	0765	HEISDORF, PETE	1447
GRILL, TIM	0108	HELLING, FRANK	1719
GROTE, CURTIS	1754	HELLING, FRANK	1847
GROWERS BARK & SAWDUST	0270	HELM, BRAD	0715
GUDINO, NICOLE	0145	HELSEY, ANDY	1663

HEMMAN, BUD	1840	HUBBARD, TOMMY GUY & MRS.	0659
HEMMAN, WILLIAM	0697	HUBERT, SCOTT	0763
HENDERSON, BARBARA	1672	HUDDLESTON, SYLVIA	1399
HENDRICKS, ANN	0025	HUDDLESTON, TED	1400
HENRY, J. V.	1857	HUDKINS, JAMES	0014
HENRY, M	0563	HUGHES, MARIE	1491
HENRY, MARY ANN	1006	HUIZENGA, DICK, TRUCKING	1578
HENRY, NICHOLE	0178	HULSE, STEPHEN S.	1008
HENRY, SUZANNE	0102	HULTEN, TERESA	1823
HERNANDEZ, C	0728	HUME-GREENLEE, KATRINA	0979
HERNANDEZ, CHRISTOPHER	0139	HUNG, MILISSA	0114
HERNANDEZ, SAM S.	0627	HUNT, TYLER	0104
HERR, ROBERT E	0860	HUNTER, AVENS	1635
HERRERA, BARRY	0478	HUNTER, AVENS	1650
HERRERA, LEAH	0124	HUNTINGTON LAKE LUMBER COMPANY	1755
HERROLD, TERRI	0783	HUSSONG, EDWARD M	0856
HERSHBERGER, JOHN	1460	HYSON, DONNA	1598
HESTER, MILDA	0831	INFUSIMO, THOMAS	1495
HEUBERT, BEN	1835	INGRAHAM, BLAKE	0067
HICKMAN, CARLOS	1169	INOVEC POSITIONING & CONTROL SYS.	0287
HICKMAN, JULIA	0183	INOVEC POSITIONING & CONTROL SYS.	1189
HICKS, HELEN	0105	INTEGRATED ENERGY ECON. SERVICES	0712
HICKSON, SONSIRAY	0190	INTERLAKE	0849
HIGA, MITCHELL	0194	ISAAC, PAMELA	1514
HIGGENS AND RUTLEDGE INSURANCE	1295	ISQUIERO, ROBERT	0668
HIGH SIERRA STOCK USERS ASSOC.	1360	IVERSON, WAYNE	0060
HIGHTOWER, J. E.	0454	IVEY, SANDY	1345
HILLCREST LOGGING, INC.	1634	IVIE, DAVE	0515
HINES, ANTONINAR	0953	IVIE, LARRY	0524
HINES, ROY	0595	IVIE, TAMI	0520
HINOJOSA, CESARIO	0723	JACK'S REFRIGERATION, INC	0335
HINSCH, CHARLES	0987	JACKSON, DON	0030
HIPP, MATT	0095	JACKSON, R ALLEN	1184
HIRT, MADELEINE	1555	JACOBS, SHELLEY	1456
HOFFMAN, ED	1608	JACOBSEN, SHELLI	1214
HOLDRIDGE, JIM	0634	JACOBSON, ERIK	1320
HOLINBECK, GENEVIVE	0720	JAEGER, ERIC	0907
HOLINBECK, SCOTT	0433	JAMES, DEBORAH	1435
HOLT BROS	1113	JANG, ROSA	0131
HOOVER, DAVID	0807	JANSEN, LARRY	1153
HOOVER, FRANNIE	1538	JANSEN, REBECCA	1152
HOOVER, VICTORIA N.	1767	JEFFERIES, JAIME	0160
HOPKINS, CAROL	0956	JENKINS, WILLIAM	1094
HOPKINS, HEIDI	1203	JENKS, KEN	0971
HOPKINS, KAREN MARIE	1769	JENSEN, BRUCE	0016
HORG, WILLIAM & MRS	1764	JESSUP, GEORGE	1343
HORN, DAVID	0952	JETTE'S YOSEMITE PARKLINE	1291
HORN, FRED	0314	JEW, PETER	0155
HORNBACK, KRISTINA	0089	JIMENEZ, R	0623
HORNER, KENTON	0272	JOHNSON, B. L	0629
HORNISH, DENNIS	0978	JOHNSON, BILLY R.	0665
HORRELL, JOHN P.	0510	JOHNSON, EUGENE	1103
HORSLEY, WESLEY	0437	JOHNSON, HEATHER	1521
HOSKINS, SUE	1096	JOHNSON, JIM	1861
HOSLEY, JAMES K	1160	JOHNSON, JUDITH	1623
HOYT, R S., & CO	1048	JOHNSON, NORMAN	1470
HRABE, GERALDINE	1211	JOHNSON, ROBERT T	1800
HRUSKA, RICHARD	0353	JOHNSON ENTERPRISES	1292

JOHNSTON, DAVE	0773	KILLEN, RONALD	0266
JOHNSTON, KEVIN	0399	KILNER, KACY	0157
JOHNSTON, MICHAEL	0370	KIM, EDWARD	0138
JOHNSTON, VERNA	0052	KING, BURT	0592
JOHNSTON, D B. & YOUNG, T C.	1001	KING, CONNIE	1685
JONES, HERBERT	0053	KING, DONALD	0621
JONES, JEFF	1527	KING, HAROLD	0404
JONES, JOHNNY	1588	KING, JOHN A.	0633
JONES, LARRY	0740	KING, STEPHEN	1134
JONES, NINA	1392	KING BEARING, INC	1260
JONES, ROBERT	0526	KING RANCH ENTERPRISE	0759
JONES, RON	0504	KINGSLEY, MIKE	0375
JONES, STEVEN	1850	KIPER, HAROLD	1329
JONES, BILL, CALIF. ST. ASSEMBLY	1364	KIRSCH, KEVIN & PAMELA	1452
JONES, PIRKLE	0882	KIZER, SUSAN	1377
JONES-HOWARD, BARBARA	1124	KLAUS, KITLIE	1648
JORGENSON AND CO.	0351	KLECKNER, R. & AUSTIN, MARY KAY	0936
JOYNER, JAMES H.	1091	KLEIN, JEFFREY	1331
JULIEN, R. A, OIL CO.	1112	KLINE, JANET	0071
KABISCH, SALLY	1599	KLING, JOEL	0230
KADOTA, MARIAN	0305	KLOSE, STANTON	0042
KALASHIAN, JOHN B	0945	KLUCKNER, JOHN W	1020
KALENDER, BRENDA M.	0749	KNEISEL, BILL	0226
KALLMAN, GEORGE	1818	KNIGHT, CHRISTOPHER W	1576
KAMAN BEARING & SUPPLY CORP.	1342	KNOWLES, LLOREE	1427
KAMISHER, GARY	0186	KNOY, JACK	0830
KANAI, MIE	0149	KO, CAROL	1557
KANNE, ROBERT M	1775	KOBASHI FARMS, INC	1219
KAPLAN, MICHAEL R	1012	KONG, GARHENG	0099
KASPAR, TRISH	0833	KONVALIN, E. E. BUCK	1394
KAUFFMAN, JERRY	0832	KOPLESON, ROBERT B	0949
KAUWOH, NICOLAAS	0702	KOTTMEIER COMPANY, INC.	0051
KAUWOH, PAT	0352	KOVAC, THOMAS	1208
KEARNE, CRESSON	0006	KOVACEVICH, NICK, TRUCKING	1218
KEHOE, VINCENT	0887	KRAL, VICTOR ERIC	1636
KELLEY, MARY C	1314	KRICK, CHRISTOPHER	0492
KELLEY, RICH	1544	KRISSOFF, WILLIAM B.	1053
KELLY, ALAN	1024	KROHN, JEFFREY C	1524
KELLY, BOBBY	1074	KROHN, LEANE	1486
KELLY, GLENN	1753	KRUSE, SCOTT M	0993
KELLY, PHIL	0780	KUNSTMAN, RICHARD W	1390
KELSO, BOB	1069	KUS, JAMES	0087
KEMP, W L.	0374	KUST, RICHARD	1509
KEMP VANTE, JENNIFER	0100	KUSTRON, PAUL E.	0932
KEMPER, ELLEN R	0249	KVN-ROBERTS, INC.	1647
KEMPER, LEWIS	1522	LADD, MRS JIMMIE	0735
KENNEDY, D LOUIS	1593	LAKWOOD FOREST PRODUCTS	0512
KENNINGTON, BUCK	0094	LAMPE, JOHN C.	1290
KENT, KYRINA	0154	LAND USE ASSOCIATES	1301
KENT, MARTY	1572	LANTING, AUDREY	1645
KENT, MICHAEL	0267	LARSEN, FRANK VOGT	1437
KERN, BARBARA	1337	LARSON, JEANNE	1843
KERN, PETER	0010	LAUTERBACH, AMY	1638
KERRISON, CAROL	1316	LAWRENCE, JOHN L	0804
KERRISON, RICHARD	1346	LAWTON, MARY AND RUSS	0974
KERSH, SHARWIN	0236	LAYMAN, ANNE	0027
KETELSEN, RAE	0165	LAZARUS, MARGERY	1116
KHURAIKET, DALAL	0119	LEADER, M. WENDI	1210

LEBOWITZ, STEPHEN	0192	LOWE, FRANCESCA	0125
LEE, MICHAEL	1258	LOWE, LIZ	0116
LEE, MIKE	0286	LOWMAN, EUGENE	0617
LEE, MAYMOND	1560	LOWMAN, HELENA	0539
LEIN, LARKETTE	1693	LUCITT, KETHLEEN	1196
LEILPNIK, J. & MRS.	0835	LUMBERMENS UNDERWRITING	
LEMKUIL, JEANNE	1296	ALLIANCE	0322
LEONG, HERBERT	1319	LUNDQUIST, CAROL	1529
LEONG, JOEL JAMES	0106	LYNCH, JIMMIE	0535
LESLIE, ROBERT J	1064	LYON, LISA	1611
LETKOWITZ, DAVE	0212	LYONS, ROBERT	1607
LEVERETT, SARAH	0057	LYTLE, MRS. THOMAS T.	1517
LEVIN, ALAN	1463	MAASKANT, LORI	1237
LEVIN, WARREN	0203	MAASKANT, NICK	1779
LEVY, JOHN	1545	MAC ISSAC, JUDITY	1272
LEWIS, CALVIN	0612	MACHLIK, JEAN	0222
LEWIS, DALE	0172	MADERA COUNTY AIR POLLUTION	
LEWIS, DENNIS	0787	CONTROL DISTRICT	0300
LEWIS, JOHN C.	1708	MADERA COUNTY BD. OF SUPERVISORS	0483
LEWIS, REGINALD S	1247	MADERA COUNTY FARM BUREAU	0817
LEWIS, RICHARD	1746	MADERA COUNTY INDUST. DEV. COMM.	0446
LEWIS, ROGER	1780	MADSEN, DANA	1378
LEWIS, JR., RAY E.	1612	MAIDA, CECILIA A	0967
LEYDECKER, AL	1787	MAIER, DIAN Y.	0215
LIBRA WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS	0959	MANLY, TIMOTHY R.	1505
LICON, ALEX	0693	MARIETTE, MARTI	1526
LICON, DAVID	0647	MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF	
LICON, ELOY	0645	SUPERVISORS	0056
LICON, MELISSA	1257	MARIPOSA COUNTY FARM BUREAU	0691
LIEBES, LINDA & SID	1465	MARKLE, GRETCHEN & JEFFREY	1622
LIEDER, JOE	0021	MARTENS CHEVROLET & OLDSMOBILE	0288
LIGGETT, BARBARA	0278	MARTIN, DARLENE & TED	0555
LIGOTTI, NARDA A	1015	MARTIN, DEBBY	1375
LILLIS, BURT	0337	MARTIN, RENA	1824
LINCOLN, J. E. & MRS	0933	MARTIN, RICHARD	0569
LINCUP, DWAYNE	0826	MARTINEZ, CLARA A.	0086
LINDQUIST, SUSAN	1462	MARTINEZ, JOE M.	0635
LINNEMAN, JAMES	0169	MASON, JAMES	0851
LINNENKOHL, BONNIE	0707	MASON, MIKE	0389
LINNEY ASSOCIATES	1614	MASON, TAD	0275
LINSCOTT, RUSSELL	1191	MASTERS, BOYD D.	0584
LIPA, BOB	1739	MATTESON, ANN	0939
LIPA, FAY	1740	MATTESON, M. A.	1275
LIPA, STEVE	1582	MATTESON, MUIR	1617
LITWEN, PHIL	0760	MATTESON, WILLIAM & GAIL	1606
LLEWELLYN, TOM	0359	MATTHEWS, C J.	1330
LOBARDO, ROSARIO	0574	MATTHEWS, JERRY	1602
LOCKHART, JOHN	1099	MATTHIESEN, JACKIE	0408
LOCKHART, LANA	1100	MAUDLIN, JODY	0121
LONG BEACH SAVINGS CO.	0326	MAVIN, EVAN	0816
LOPEZ, DOMINGO	0097	MAYER, DAVID	0547
LOPEZ, JAIME	0762	MC CANN, CATHERINE	0854
LOPEZ, MARK	0205	MC CARROLL, STEPHEN P	0858
LOPEZ, MARTIN	0792	MC CLELLAND, DARRELL	1120
LOPEZ, RICHARD	0669	MC CONNELL, C.	1004
LOPEZ, ROBERT A	0734	MC CONNELL, LORETA	1018
LORD, GERALD	0578	MC COY, JANE KYLE	0980
LOVERIN, BEN	0098	MC DONALD, ALVIN	1749

MC DOUGALL, G. S	1060	MINTON, JAMES L.	1786
MC GUINNESS, PATRICK	1093	MIRELESS, LARRY	0340
MC INTYRE, EILEEN	1129	MITCHELL, KENNETH	0602
MC INTYRE, ROBERT	1162	MITCHELL, ROBIN	1119
MC LEAN, DOUGLAS	1444	MITCHELL, ROGER K.	1684
MC REYNOLDS, CARL D.	0881	MITCHELL, STEVEN	0232
MC REYNOLDS, DEAN	0382	MIZE, DANNY	0379
MC CALL, J A. & FAMILY	0664	MIZE, GARY	0803
MC CORMICK, KEITH	0731	MEON, DAN	0611
MC CUTCHEON, LAURA N.	1770	MOLARSKY, MARGARET G.	1540
MC DOUGLAD, SANDRA	1426	MOLL, CHARLES	0355
MC DOWELL, ROBERT	1418	MOLLGAARD, HARRY & THEO	0869
MC GARVEY, SR., JAMES J	0525	MOON, GARY	1382
MC GREGOR, POLLY	0703	MOORE, GEORGE A.	1062
MC QUIRE, TODD	1033	MOORE, JOHN K.	1804
MC KEE, LORETTA	1424	MOORE, LLOYD	1104
MC KEE, ROBERT A	1334	MOORE, MICHAEL	0170
MC LAUGHLIN, BOB	0283	MOORE, ROBERT	1323
MC LAUGHLIN, GARY	0034	MOORE, SUSAN D.	1451
MC LEAN, RITA	1398	MORALES, ISRAEL	0686
MC MAHON, JOHN & MRS.	1604	MOREY, KATHY	1562
MC MURTRY, VICTOR	0361	MORGAN, AARON	0147
MC NEAL, CONNIE MAC	0469	MORGAN, DONALD L	1204
MC NULTY, MAUREEN	1644	MORGAN, GEORGE	0493
MEADORS, CRAIG	0927	MORGAN, GEORGE E.	1476
MECCHI, GLEN & MELAINE	1202	MORGAN, JERRY	0757
MECCHI, PETER	0544	MORGAN, ROB	0640
MECCHI LOGGING, INC	1328	MORGAN, WARREN & LAURA	1404
MEDLEY, RAYMOND P.	1192	MORRILL, CHRIS	1592
MEEKS, RAYBURN	1359	MORRIS, DOROTHY I.	1403
MELCHER, KEN, TRUCKING	1759	MORRIS, JAMES	1402
MELLANA, DONNA	1596	MORRIS, JOSEPH	1554
MENDEL, DAWN	1574	MORRIS, WILLIAM E	0541
MENDERHAUSEN, ANN	1369	MORRISON, DAVID	0970
MENDERSHAUSEN, RALPH	0063	MORROW, MIKE	1126
MENZL, ALBERT J	1223	MORTON, CLAUDE E	0968
MERCED CANYON COMMITTEE	1371	MOSCARELLA, LINDA & AL	1802
MERCED FLYFISHING CLUB	1783	MOSHER, JACKSON	1387
MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT	0078	MOSHER, MIKE S	0342
MERCHANT MAGAZINE	0421	MOSS, LARRY	0003
MERLICH, MAX	0310	MOSS, MARK	0218
MERRYMAN, PAT W.	1170	MOTARJEMI, SHEREEN	1306
MESSER, R. W.	1240	MOTION INDUSTRIES, INC.	0533
MESSER, TIM	1238	MOTT, DARLENE	1076
MESSER, WINIFRED	1239	MOTTOLA, PHYLLIS	1282
METOYER, COLINE	0590	MTN. LION PRESERVATION FOUNDATION	1798
MICEK, PATRICK	1467	MOUTJOY, BOB & JAN	1670
MID-VALLEY DISTRIBUTORS	1128	MOUTLER, BILL	1841
MIKUTELT, S	0938	MOUTLER, LOUANNA	1842
MILLER, EDMAN L	0422	MOW, JEFF	1605
MILLER, ELIZABETH	1705	MEULLER, LOIS. B	1309
MILLER, JOHN	0084	MUIR, BRIAN MITCHELL	0509
MILLER, KEN	0972	MULLEN, PHILIP G.	1772
MILLER, LOUISE M	1266	MULLIGAN, PAUL M.	1785
MILLER, PATTI AND RICK	0200	MURDOCK, MALOY OTIS	0852
MILLER, R A	1552	MURRY, JACK	0648
MILLER, ROBERT	0675	MUSSMAN, MARC	0239
MILLER, RUSSELL S.	1706	NAITO, SUZANA	0231

NAKATANI, AKIKO	0150	ORTIZ, GONZALO	0551
NASAHOOD, RALPH	0362	ORVIS, MARIAN	1751
NATURE CONSERVANCY	1313	OSA, MATT & MRS.	0505
NAUMANN, GERHARD	0048	OSA, ROBERT	0616
NAVARRO, DONALD	0497	OSECHECK, PEARL	0281
NAVARRO, EDDI	0466	OTTEM PETROLEUM, INC	1355
NAVARRO, SANDRA S	1097	OTTERS, GOLDIE	1721
NELSON, CHARLES F	1620	OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF FRESNO .	0683
NELSON, CLAIR E.	1637	PACIFIC EQUITY MANAGEMENT	0954
NELSON, DON	0813	PACIFIC FOREST PRODUCTS	0650
NELSON, JACK	1038	PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY	0464
NELSON, JIM	1003	PACIFIC INVESTMENT COMPANY	0868
NELSON, LAWRENCE	1449	PAGE, JOHN	0013
NELSON, WILLARD	0870	PALMER, GARY	0279
NEMZER, LISA	1791	PALMER, HELEN & DAVID	1011
NEUBAUER, WALTER	1244	PANAS, ANDY	0714
NEWTON, KARL	1836	PANAS, LUCY	0713
NICKON, LINDA	1304	PARDY, LINDA	1530
NILSSON, KAREN & NILS	1068	PARKER, GWEN CHASE	1609
NORTH FORK MONO TRIBE	1434	PARKS, MARTIN	0428
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOG SCALING & GRADING BUREAU	0332	PARR, CHERE M.	1155
NOEL, ELLEN	1624	PARRISH, JANET	1603
NOLAND, KATHY	1789	PASADENA CITY COLLEGE	1792
NOLI, BILL	1057	PASHAYAN, DAVID & TIM	0191
NORBY, JUDI	1233	PASILLAS, RUDY	0405
NORBY, RICHARD A	1736	PASILLAS, STEVE	0398
NORBY LUMBER COMPANY, INC.	0692	PATALANO, PAM	0227
NORBY LUMBER COMPANY, INC	1703	PATTERSON, D. E.	0202
NORICHIO, MICK	1570	PATTERSON, EDWARD M	1324
NORIMOTO, TAMON	0168	PATTERSON, HENRIETTA & THOMAS . . .	1428
NORMAN, RICHARD L	0966	PAUL BROOKS LOGGING	1080
NORRIS, DARCY	1023	PEELE TRANSPORT SYSTEMS	1796
NORRIS, DAVE	1040	PENNINGTON, S R., ENTERPRISES	0996
NORRIS, SUSAN	1026	PENNY, KATHERINE	1255
NE. CALIFORNIANS FOR WILDERNESS . . .	1535	PERALTA, ALFREDO	0695
NO. CALIF FED. OF FLY FISHERS	1777	PEREIDA, CRYSTAL	0120
NOURIAN, GAIZAK	0378	PERELLI, RICHARD	0982
NOVELL, DAVID	1477	PEREZ, GUSTARO & GUS	0896
NY, STEPHEN	0899	PEREZ, HECTOR	0625
O'CONNELL, KATHLEEN	1583	PEREZ, JOAQUIN	0919
O'CONNOR, ELLEN L	1327	PEREZ, MICHAEL J.	0727
O'CONNOR, JEWETT	1061	PERKINS, JACK	1227
O'NEAL, ROY	0534	PERLSTEIN, JOEL T	1715
O'QUIN, MICHAEL W. & FAMILY	1201	PERRY FAMILY	1145
O'REILLY, EILEEN	0188	PESKIN, AARON	0075
O'ROUCHE	0872	PETERHAUS, LAURA K.	1308
OBERO, MATEO	0444	PETERS, JAN	0019
OCHOA-TORES, MARIO A	0756	PETERS, PAULA	0347
ODEM, JR., WILBERT	1032	PETERS, TED, TRUCKING, INC	1115
OHST, GARY	1228	PETERSEN, STAN	1643
OLDHAM, CHARLES	0452	PETERSON, FLOYD	0824
OLIVER, MARK	0581	PETERSON, JAMES	1063
OLMOS, DOMINGO	0409	PETTES, RUTH	1410
OLSEN, BRUCE M	0259	PHAM, TRINH	0135
OLSSON, STANLEY	1846	PHILLIPS, JANET	1174
ONTARIO WATER-SKI ASSOCIATION	0336	PICKER PARTS, INC	0360
ORBAKER, RONNIE	1747	PICKETT, OSCAR	1621
Sierra National Forest		PIERCE, JOHN G.	1199

PIERSON, LUCY HUNT	1762	REDAYAN, ROD	1217
PIIRTO, DOUGLAS D.	0753	REECE, GERRY & JAMES	1019
PIMENTEL, TOM	1164	REED, CHARLES D.	0251
PINEDO, JUAN F.	0806	REED, GARY	1676
PINES RESORT	1761	REED, RICHARD & MARLYS	1405
PINSKY, DAVID	1559	REED EQUIPMENT COMPANY	0947
PINTO, JOHN	0662	REEDLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	0910
PIPER, GARY	0420	REEVES, TED	1344
PITTMAN, SMOKEY	0866	REGENSBURGER, BILL	0229
PITZER COLLEGE	1351	REID, ROGER	0846
PIZANA, RICHARD	0481	REIMER, DINAH	1176
PLAND, R H	0828	REIMER, ROBERT	1132
PLOCKIER, NOCOLE	0217	RELIANCE METAL CENTER	0871
PLUMB, STEVE	0926	REMPEL, ROBIN	0751
POOSER LUMBER CO , INC.	1190	RENDON, ERNEST	0562
POPE, ROBERT D	1147	REYES, JESSIE	0839
POPE TIRE COMPANY	1249	REYES, TONY	0717
POPP, DAVID	0197	REYNA, DANIEL	0465
POPPINK, M A	1016	REYNOLDS, GERRY	0038
PORCILE, RON	0656	REYNOLDS, NANCY	1028
PORPIGLIA, RANDY	1031	REYNOUD, ERNA G	1412
POTTER, JOSHUA W.	1216	REZNICK, EMANUEL & MRS.	1310
POWELL, LAWRENCE M	0346	RHU, SUE	0258
POWELL, ROGER	0417	RHUDY, LISA	1506
PRATT, WILLIAM R.	1457	RICHARDS, MARK	1778
PRESSLEY, PETER	0024	RICHARDSON, GARY	1250
PRICE, BEVERLY	0134	RICHARDSON, MARK	0395
PRICE, JOHN	0463	RICHIE, GEORGINA	1630
FRUITT, RONALD R.	0888	RIESER, CRAIG	1496
PRUNEDA, RENE	0440	RIGGI, ANTHONY J.	1013
PRUNEDA, ROY	0680	RIPPEE, JAMES	0708
PRUSSIN, LARRY	1035	RIPPETOE, ERNIE	0445
PUMAREJE, BEN	0729	RITTER, DEBBIE	0068
PUNKIN, TIMOTHY C	0598	RIVERA, DAVID	0732
PURDY, MARK	1276	RIVERA, JESSE	0677
QUARMBY, DEBBIE	0073	RIVERA, MARK	0786
QUEDEZ, JOHN	0496	RIVERBEND TRUCKING, INC.	0427
QUIGLEY, KENNETH	0410	RIVERS, WALTER	0201
QUIN, JOYCE & DAVE	0338	ROBERT BROWN ASSOCIATES	1226
QUINN COMPANY	0819	ROBERT V. JENSEN, INC.	1067
RABIN, SYD	1675	ROBERTS, GEORGE F.	0624
RADDATZ, LORRAINE	1193	ROBERTS, JANICE	0748
RADDATZ, WARREN	1180	ROBERTS, LUTHER	0638
RADMAN, CLARA C.	0290	ROBERTS, NILES	1632
RAGNETTI, JOHN & BOBBIE	1084	ROBERTS, W T	1743
RAGNETTI, TONY	1092	ROBERTSON, BRETT	1241
RAHL, JOHN	0455	ROBINSON, BOBBY G.	0576
RAMBO, MASA	1278	ROBINSON, DAVID	0146
RANDALL, MEL SCOTT	0198	ROBINSON, MARY L	0977
RANDOLPH, ROBERT	0040	ROBINSON, R MAURICE	0946
RANK, CHARLES	1472	ROCKING K RANCH	1354
RANK, LYNN	1246	RODRIQUEZ, JESSICA	0140
RANK, ROBERT C	1071	RODIGUEZ, CHRIS	0782
RARIG, JOHN & JEAN	1803	RODRIGUEZ, ELIAS	0594
RASMUSSEN, JOHN	1610	RODRIGUEZ, FRED	0660
READY, DAVID	1553	RODRIGUEZ, JUAN A	0448
REALTY WORLD - DITTON REALTY	0431	RODRIGUEZ, MANUEL	1332
RECKAS, JOAN	1585	RODRIGUEZ, MARTIN	0414

RODRIGUEZ, OPAL	1274	SAUER, KEITH	1265
RODRIGUEZ, RICHARD A	0500	SAUER, PAT	1252
ROGALSKY, JOHN	1838	SAVE THE REDWOODS LEAGUE	1333
ROGERS, BRIAN	0552	SCENIC SHORELINE PRESERV. CONF	1682
ROGERS, DEE	0934	SCHAEFER, WILLIAM P.	1148
ROGERS, DOUG	0207	SCHALDACH, TIM	1737
ROGERS, GARY	1853	SCHICK, ED	0460
ROGERS, RAY	0908	SCHLOBOHM, DEAN	0199
ROGERS, JR , ROBERT	0529	SCHLOSS, DELORES	0998
ROLA, JOHN JAMES	0771	SCHLOSS, JEFF	0074
ROMERO, CHRISTINE	0369	SCHLOSS, RICHARD	1000
RONAN, BARBARA	0035	SCHLOTTHAUR, MARLA	0141
RONAYUE, DIANE	0028	SCHMELZER, ROBERT & SHIRLEY	1546
ROOPE, G. L	0570	SCHNAAR, BETTY	0289
RORTY, BRUCE V	1326	SCHREIBER, DOLORES	1587
ROSCZYK, MARY LOU	1551	SCHRIEBER, RALPH	0489
ROSE, GREG	1279	SCHWAGON, J.	0745
ROSE, MICHAEL	1156	SCHWARTZ, WAYNE S.	0941
ROSEDALE, RALPH	1738	SCHWARTZ, JASON	0113
ROSIN, AARON	0103	SCHWEIKERT, VICTOR	0815
ROSS, MARTY	1253	SEABURG, DONNA	1311
ROSS, MICHAEL	1280	SEAL AND PACKING SUPPLY	1615
ROSS CORPORATION	0327	SEASTROM, DOUG	1589
ROUFF, JEAN	1212	SEDLER, DALE R.	1315
ROWE, CHARLES & ALMA	1466	SELIG, LEIGH	1163
ROWE, MRS. R	1450	SEQUOIA FOREST INDUSTRIES	0752
ROWE, RICHARD	1809	SEQUOIA FOREST INDUSTRIES	1397
ROY, RUTH	1788	SEQUOIA FOREST INDUSTRIES	1702
RUBY, STEVEN	0049	SEQUOIA FOREST PRODUCTS	1492
RUCHMAN, MIKE L.	0216	SEQUOIA ROCK COMPANY	0330
RUDY, ELAINE	0641	SEQUOIA SAW & SUPPLY COMPANY	0491
RUGGERI, HELEN & LOWE	0247	SEQUOIA SKYLINE, INC.	1181
RUNKEL, JOHN H & GLADYS	0911	SEQUOIA SKYLINE, INC	1714
RUNNER, CHRISTOPHER J	1285	SHABAZIAN, ARMEN	0600
RUSCHAAPT, BUD	1830	SHAINBERG, PEGGY	1438
RUSSELL, RAE	1722	SHANKS, ROBERT L	1401
RUSTIGEN, S	1108	SHANKS, WANDA	0457
RYAN, RICHARD & ROBIN	1411	SHAPLEY, LLOYD & MARION	1822
SAGEBIEL, JOHN C	0863	SHAPR, DEL	1078
SALAZAR, SANTIAGO	0368	SHARP, JUDY	0722
SALEM EQUIPMENT	0474	SHARP, SAVONIA F.	1088
SALES, PATRICIA	0189	SHAUBACH, BUD	0805
SALICK, RENEE	1454	SHAW, CHARLES A	0906
SALLEE, ART	1395	SHAWVER TRUCKING COMPANY	1207
SAMANIEGO, SANTOS	0372	SHELTON, JR , ALLEN W.	0844
SAMPSON, SUZANNE	1494	SHERMAN, HARVEY	0862
SAN GABRIEL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION	1580	SHERMAN, VIVIAN CHOY	1005
SAN JOAQUIN KENWORTH	1590	SHROEDER, ERIC	0889
SANCHEZ, FRANCISCO & FAMILY	0850	SHRUM, LEROY	0885
SANDELL, CAROL	1118	SHUMAKER, DALE	0388
SANDERS, GEORGE	1471	SHVEDOWSKY, ROBYN	0127
SANDERS, NORMA M.	0256	SIEGEL, PAULA	1167
SANDERS, RICHARD	0542	SIERRA ASSOC. FOR ENVIRONMENT	1601
SANTER HERALD	1365	SIERRA CEDARS COMMUNITY SERVICES	
SANTOS, JAVIER D L	0733	DISTRICT	1242
SAROYAN, ROBERT	0402	SIERRA CLUB, SAN FRAN CHAPTER	1366
SARVETNICK, M	0235	SIERRA CLUB, SAN FRAN CHAPTER	1667
SAUDERS, RICHARDS	0841	SIERRA CLUB, TEHIPITE CHAPTER	1533

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SIERRA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL	0195	SOMMERVILLE, JOHN	1829
SIERRA LAND USE COMMITTEE	1158	SOSSMAN, LARRY	0486
SIERRA SOLID WASTE & TRUCKING	1123	SOTELO, ANDREW C	0614
SIERRA VALLEY INTL. TRUCKS, INC	1701	SOVA, MARK	0652
SIGG, JACOB	0018	SPAFFORD, KATHY	1154
SIKORA, CHARLES	1859	SPARROW, CLIFF	1833
SIKORA, MARILYN	1568	SPENCE, MIKE	1773
SILVA, RAY	0776	SPENCE, PAULA M.	1728
SIM, JR., CLIFFORD	0553	SPENCE, PETER	0029
SIMMONS, HELEN S.	1321	SPIER, JIM	0367
SIMON, PHILY	0225	SPINAK, RENEE	0837
SIMONS, STEPHEN	0774	SPINDEL, GERALD & SHEILA	0741
SIMPSON, LARRY	0746	SPINDLER, MICHAEL	0243
SIRBU, GARY M	1225	SPORTSMEN'S COUNCIL OF CENTRAL	
SISKIYOU FOREST CONSULTANTS	0989	CALIFORNIA	1178
SIU, KATHLEEN	0220	SPRATT, JOHN	1704
SKASOL INCORPORATED	0682	STAFFORD, LARRY	0418
SKELLE, TOM	1683	STAHL, KIM	0244
SKURNIK, DAVE	1641	STADLER, RICK	1442
SKURNIK, THERESA	1666	STARK, GEORGE	0554
SKYLINE LOGGING, INC	1182	STARNER, JULIANNE	1629
SLAGER, THOMAS	0037	STARRY, MIKE	1338
SLATER, MARCY	0777	STATE OF CALIF., BD. OF FORESTRY	1542
SLATER, SAMANTHA	0162	STATE OF CALIF., GOVERNORS OFFICE	1543
SLAYTON, HENRY D.	0476	STEBBING, FLORENCE	1490
SLAYTON, PAT	0761	STEHURA, SEAN	0975
SLOSS, ANTHONY	1561	STEIGER, MICHAEL	0210
SLOSSNER, KEVIN	0206	STEINBERG, DAN & MRS.	0742
SLYE, RICHARD	0365	STEINBERG, MARIA & ROBERT	1725
SMALLEN, BOBBIE	1600	STEPHENS, RUTH A.	1730
SMALLEN, MARK	1058	STEVEN, JACQUELINE	0958
SMITH, CARL R.	0917	STEVENSON, SCOTT	1049
SMITH, CHUCK	0793	STEWART, ED	1461
SMITH, DARWYNE	1347	STICKNEY, JERRY	0558
SMITH, E. MATT	1627	STILLION, KAY	1070
SMITH, EUELL & BARBARA	0349	STOKES, JOHN R	1111
SMITH, GLENN	0550	STONE, JAMES R.	1322
SMITH, J. D., TRUCKING	1284	STONE, JEFF	1817
SMITH, JAMES & CORNELIA	1376	STONE, NED	1117
SMITH, JEAN A.	1248	STOOPS, JAMES	0536
SMITH, JENNIFER	0177	STOREY, DUANE	1105
SMITH, JOAN	1349	STORM, MERLYN	0292
SMITH, LELAND	0238	STOUFFER, DAISY	0842
SMITH, MALLORY	1594	STOUFFER, RICHARD	0343
SMITH, PEGGY	1130	STOUGHTON DAVIDSON	0689
SMITH, RACHAEL	1373	STOWELL, L.	0219
SMITH AUTO PARTS	0308	STRATHDEE, CHRISTINE	0166
SMITH TANK LINES	1613	STRAUSS, GEORGE	1821
SMITH, JR., CECIL M.	1106	STURGEON, BRIAN	0107
SMITH, STEVE	0393	STURM, GRANT	1831
SMYTH, MARY A	0253	SUDEMAM, DAVID	0759
SNOW SUMMIT	1865	SUK, TOM	0082
SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS,		SULLIVAN, MIKE	1691
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SOLIS, BENJAMIN	0730	SUMMERS, E. R.	0811
SOLORZANO, LEONOR	1224	SURYARMAN, MAYA M.	0913
SOMERA, ALBERT	0800	SWANSON, JOHN	0055

SWARD, LINDA	1677	TUESCHER, TED	1799
SWINGER AGRICULTURAL	0080	TUFTS, JEFFERY C.	1352
SYDORIAK, CHARISSE	1379	TULLY, CHARLES VINCENT	0965
SYDORIAK, WALTER	1380	TUTLER, KENT	0710
T & T TRUCKING	1368	U S D A , PACIFIC SW EXPER. STA.	0413
TAGORE, KULDEEP	0115	U.S. DEPT. OF COMMERCE, NATIONAL	
TAIT, DALE N.	0461	MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE	0004
TARCIA, DAVID	0047	U.S. DEPT. OF INTERIOR, BUREAU OF	
TARPLEY, GENIE	0796	LAND MANAGEMENT	1440
TARPLEY, LES	0516	U S DEPT. OF INTERIOR,	
TATUM, DALE	1221	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	0184
TAXPAYERS ASSOC. OF MADERA		U S. DEPT OF INTERIOR, OFFICE	
COUNTY	1348	OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW	1534
TAYLOR, RACHEL	0129	U S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
TAYLOR, WILL	0983	AGENCY	1866
TEAGUE, CHARLES	0694	ULMAN, BARBARA	1358
TEMPLETON, RUSSELL E	1251	ULSH, DALE	1774
TERRY, BILL	0411	UNGER, LORRAINE & ARTHUR	1293
THEBAULT, GARY	0874	UNIV. OF CALIF., COOP EXTENSION OF	
THIEL, LEONARD	0302	AGRONOMY & RANGE	0412
THIESEN, ERNEST	0396	UNRUH VALLEY TRANSPORT	1350
THIESSEN, B.	1205	USSREY, JOHNNY	1220
THODEY, ADAM	0297	VALCARCEL, NATHALIE	0112
THOMAS, AL	1501	VALDEZ, ROGELIO	0696
THOMAS, C. J.	1479	VALEN, JUDITH K.	0829
THOMAS, JILL	0260	VALENINE, RAY	0032
THOMPSON, ANDY	1810	VALLEJO, JOE	0678
THOMPSON, DOUGLAS	0610	VALLEY IRON, INC.	0997
THOMPSON, MIKE	0495	VALWELD SUPPLY	0331
THOMPSON & GILL, INC.	1133	VAL ALSTYNE, R. W	0865
THORTON, JACK	1110	VAN HUSS, MARK	1854
TIMBERLINE LOGGING	0383	VAN STEENBERGEN, BERNICE	0943
TIMMER, JOHN	1161	VAN WAGTENDONK, JAN	1658
TIMMONS, CATHY	1862	VANDERVOET, DAVID	1712
TIPTON, H. O.	1487	VANG, MAIYOUA	0142
TIPTON, MARCIE	1488	VELA, RUBEN	0479
TOMINE, ADRIANE	0175	VERNALLIS, MARGARET S	1254
TOPPER, JOE	0033	VEYLES, ROCKY	0632
TOROSIAN, STEVE	0705	VIETZKE, PAUL C.	0859
TORRES, BARBARA	1510	VILLA	1864
TORRES, RAMON	1547	VINING, JOHN	0548
TOSTEVIN, BECK	1245	VINING, PAUL	1135
TRACHTENBERG, ALAN	0944	VOIGHT, GREG	0008
TRACY, TERRY	1567	VOIGT, C.	1107
TREBER, CRAIG	1525	VOLANDAI, MRS. OAKES	0981
TREBER, TERRY A.	1340	VOSS, RONALD L.	0268
TRESIDDER, BRUCE	0606	VUE, PAO	0101
TRESIDDER, RICHARD	0607	VUICH, ROSE ANN, CALIF. STATE SENATE	0339
TRESIDDER, SHIRLEY	0608	WADE, GENE	0393
TREUMER, DARREN	0618	WAGNER, KERMIT	1289
TREVINO, EVARISTO	0358	WAHEED, DENNIS	1165
TREVINO, MARTIN	0345	WAHL, SIENA	1566
TREVION, RUBEN	0344	WAKEFIELD, KAREN	0591
TRIANGLE LINES, INC.	0313	WALDRIP, STEVE	0960
TROESI, RUBY	1077	WALKE, LEAH	0090
TROMBA, SAL	1127	WALKER, KENNETH L.	0450
TRUJILLO, JAVIER	0789	WALL, WALTER	0391
TUBES, INC.	1259	WALLA, PETE	0657

WALLEN, SIGNE	0909	WILDLIFE SOCIETY, SAN JOAQUIN	
WALLIN, BETTINE	0012	VALLEY CHAPTER	1669
WALMSLEY, JOHN	1564	WILKINSON, ROBERT	0406
WALTER R SCOTT, INC.	1287	WILLARD, DWIGHT M	1222
WALTON, KAREN	0719	WILLBANKS, LAURA	1183
WALZ, THOMAS	0507	WILLHELM, LEE	1656
WARD, GARY	0565	WILLIAMS, BILLY	0348
WARD, GERALD	1860	WILLIAMS, BILLY R	0843
WARD, RICHARD B.	1144	WILLIAMS, CECIL	0880
WARD, TERRY	0561	WILLIAMS, CHARLES	0009
WARKENTINE, W.	0821	WILLIAMS, LOU	1852
WARMAN, AL	0502	WILLIAMS, ROBERT	0557
WARNER, NANCY E	1523	WILLIAMSON, JOSHUA	0148
WARREN, KATHERINE	0298	WILLSOX, VIVIAN C	1086
WARREN, ROBERT	1051	WILMOTH-CHAMP TRUCKING, INC.	1766
WATKINS, JIMMY	0877	WILSON, CLAY	0568
WATKINS, OSCAR	0530	WILSON, JAMES	0948
WATKINS, R	0822	WILSON, RICHARD B.	1264
WATKINS, TOINI	1046	WILSON, SHARON	1480
WAUGH, BRENDA	0211	WILSON, SHIRLEY A.	1591
WAUGH, DAN	0091	WILSON BUILDING MATERIALS	0467
WEATHERSON, LEROY	0415	WIMBERLY, ALLEN	1072
WEAVER, JOAN	0781	WINDMILLER, ALAN S	0543
WEBB, RALPH & MRS	0834	WINDMILLER, GAY	0615
WEBBER, STEPHEN E	1215	WINGFIELD, JOE ALFRED	0143
WEBER, PHYLLIS	0015	WINGFIELD, ROBERT	1325
WELBORN, MICHAEL	0064	WINGO, JR., W H.	1748
WELLER, KENNETH	1036	WINKENBACH LOGGING	1137
WELLMAN, ROBIN JOY	0081	WINKENBACK, CHRISTIAN	1723
WELLS, BRIAN	0209	WINKLE, P. G	1726
WESER, NEWTON D.	1083	WINTERNITZ, JR , WILLIAM	0990
WEST, MARY	0242	WISE, JR , RUSSELL O.	1723
WEST, WENDY K.	1052	WISE, SR., RUSSELL O	0791
WESTERN FOREST INDUSTRIES ASSOC.	1819	WISEMAN, GEORGE	0513
WESTERN LANDSCAPE	0363	WISSEMAN, TONY	1781
WESTERN TIMBER ASSOC	1002	WOLAR, GLYNNE G	1695
WESTERN TIMBER ENGINEERING	1711	WONG, JEAN	0092
WESTERN WOOD PRODUCT ASSOC	1581	WOO, JIM	1443
WESTERN WOODS, INC.	0711	WOOD, CAROL	0704
WESTHOOK, SPENCER	0196	WOOD, VIVIAN	0922
WESTON, SCOTT	0307	WOOD, JR., HARRY	1659
WESTRICK, MARIHELEN	0320	WOODRUFF, AYN	0963
WETTSTEIN, G., M & A	1815	WOODS, LANEY	0531
WHEELER, IRVING L.	1073	WOODS, NANCY	1139
WHIPPS, MIKE	1694	WOODS, RUSTY	1166
WHITAKER, PAM	1742	WORTHING, S. M.	1010
WHITE, GRACE	1087	WORTHLEY, J STEVEN	0812
WHITE, P.	0456	WRIGHT, CHRISTOPHER	0122
WHITE, SANDRA	0969	WRIGHT, CRAIG	0334
WHITE, WARREN	0855	WRIGHT, DONN	1101
WHITE WATER VOYAGES/RIVER		WRIGHT, GRAHAM J.	1816
EXPLORATION, LTD.	0181	WRIGHT, LETA	1381
WHITMORE, GEORGE W. & NANCY A	1733	WRIGHT, MELINDA	1317
WHITSON, STANLEY	1406	WRIGHT, ROBERT	1383
WHITTEN, JR RICHARD H	0690	WUESTHOFF, FRANCORAL	0836
WILCOX, LARRY	1481	WUETHRICH, PAUL F. & RUTH E.	1050
WILCOX, RUTHELLA	1234	YAMADA, MERILYNN	1519
		YBARRA, BERNARD	0653

YBARRA, ERNEST G	0904	ZAMBRACO, COMODORO, JR. . . . .	.0436
YBARRA, JOSE	0426	ZAMBRANO, JIMMY F . . . . .	.0718
YBARRA, RAUL	0905	SAMORA, FILIMON . . . . .	.0797
YOFFE, BONNIE	1709	ZANE, BURKE	1363
YORGANJIAN, VARVAR	1531	ZANINOVICH, JOHN M. . . . .	.0403
YORK, CARL O	0537	ZEE MEDICAL SERVICE CO. . . . .	.1283
YOSEMITE GATEWAY BD. OF REALTORS .	0955	ZEP MANUFACTURING CO. . . . .	.1150
YOSEMITE PARK & CURRY CO	1512	ZIMMERMAN, JAMES R. . . . .	.0588
YOSEMITE TRAILS PACK STATION . . .	1125	ZOLNAY, RICK	1085
YOSHIOKA, GLEN	1807		

T.4 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND FOREST SERVICE RESPONSES

T 4 1 Introduction

This section contains public comments submitted in response to the Draft Plan and DEIS. Where possible, these comments have been consolidated into statements which reflect the range of public concerns and supporting rationale. Each comment is followed by a Forest Service response. All original letters and supporting documentation used in the development of the public response summary are on file and available for review in the Forest Supervisor's Office.

Public comments and Forest Service responses are presented in the following sections according to resource and management categories listed in Table T.04 in section T 2 3 1. The number(s) following each subject code from Table T.04 is the number assigned to the individual's letter or other form of input as described in section T3.0. Most comments shown are direct quotes. Others have been paraphrased to facilitate grouping of similar comments or because of the length of comments.

Because of the frequency of some types of comments, the following responses may not have been identified in the response to the individual's comment. These are

a. There appears to be some confusion about the time period of the Forest Plan. The Plan gives direction for Forest Management over a 10 to 15-year period, at which time it will be reviewed and revised. In the Alternative Analysis, a 50-year planning horizon was used so that long-term effects of alternative management techniques could be predicted beyond the 10 to 15-year planning period, assuming that each management scheme was to continue. Consequently, outputs, costs, and environmental consequences are projected for 50 years and presented for comparison purposes.

b. Many respondents wanted information more detailed than could or should be presented. Where further information was needed to clarify the text, it was added, but the EIS and Plan cannot be expanded to accommodate many requests and suggestions. Detailed information may be found in supporting documents, which are part of the planning records or are incorporated by reference. They are available for review at the Supervisor's Office, 1600 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, California.

c. Some respondents wished to "vote" for a particular alternative. This was primarily accomplished through the use of form letters and petitions. While this is valid input, the review process is not intended to be an election on the

various alternatives. A summary of an alternative preference was made and is in the planning records.

d. Many respondents expressed fear that their timber-related jobs and receipts to counties for roads and schools would be lost if the Preferred Alternative in the draft Plan is approved. This concern is addressed in our responses to local government agencies and officials. Because of the inter-related nature of all timber concerns, most timber comments were addressed in eight broad responses.

e. Some respondents asked that we model the "Conservationists' Alternative." This was done and is described in the EIS in the section on alternatives considered, but eliminated.

f. Many respondents specifically requested to be placed on the Forest mailing list or to be kept informed of further planning. All respondents to the DEIS and proposed Plan are currently on the land management planning mailing list, which will govern the distribution of this EIS and Plan and notices of subsequent planning activity.

g. Many respondents' editorial comments concerning written material and data display are without specific response identification. Suggested revisions and additions have been reviewed, and those which add appreciably to the documents' clarity have been incorporated. Identified typographical, grammatical, computational, and technical errors have been corrected.

h. Many of the public comments were observations, expressions of opinion or statements of value for which we have no professional response.

T 4 2 How To Use Public Comments And Forest Service Responses

This section is organized by subject codes, as listed in Table T 04. Each subject is designated by a code number and all codes are arranged in numerical order. All comments are arranged in numerical order under the appropriate code. Some subjects may be described under related topics, and reviewers are encouraged to study Table T 05, the alphabetical listing of all respondents. Reviewers interested in the source of a specific comment may find the source in Table T 06, the list of identification numbers to respondents.

An example of the system is illustrated here

"040/9999" shows that 040 is the subject code for economics (see Table T.04) and the respondent is Mrs. Example (see Table T.05).

000 - PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE (A)

000/0059

I support the proposed management for areas 46, 48, 52, and 66. I also support the proposed management of area 18.

Thank you for your support

000/0064

The improvements proposed in Alternative A, such as, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and wilderness are beneficial. No additional hydroelectric projects and OHV routes should be allowed. You should protect streams and riparian corridors. There should be no grazing above 5000 ft., no clearcutting and no chemical pest and vegetation management.

See response to 000/0555

000/0286

We could support your Preferred Alternative with the following modifications: 1) motorized vehicles would not be permitted on trails along the river 2) No scheduled timber sales or road should be planned within 1/4 mile of the river. 3) The quarter mile river corridor should be changed from a VQO modification and partial retention to full retention and management area, to be changed from general forest to dispersed recreation, without scheduled timber harvests. 4) Salvage and sanitation accepted as responses to catastrophic events.

All of Management Area 2 is now Dispersed Recreation/No Timber Harvest as suggested. The management of the area along the river will be determined in the Wild and Scenic Implementation Plan. You are invited to participate in future public meetings for this project

000/0304

I would hope that Alternatives A, D, & E could be blended together, while B, C, F, H, & I would be left out altogether

See response to 000/0555

000/0538

I would like to see a plan that would provide multiple use benefits.

Thank you for your comment. This was our goal when developing our Plan.

000/0545

Please take these and other peoples comments into consideration and realize that the recommended Plan will not be beneficial to the majority of the people in California.

Your preference was considered in making our decision. There are trade-offs between the higher levels of timber production in Alternatives H and C; effects on resources such as Fish, Wildlife, Visual, and Recreation, and effects on local employment and local government finance. All of these effects are described in the EIS and were considered in our analysis.

000/0555

We wish to take this opportunity to voice our opposition to Alternative A, and indicate our support for Management Alternative E.

Your preference was considered during our analysis. Trade-offs between the higher levels of amenities in each of the alternatives; effects on timber production, range and forage production, water and mineral production; and effects on local employment and local government finances were also considered. All of these effects are described in the EIS and were considered in our analysis.

000/1002

Would you please provide us with a written description of the process and the reasons for selecting the Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative was selected by an Interdisciplinary Team process. After many meetings involving trade-offs and compromise, a preferred alternative was selected. Then it was sent out for public comment in the DEIS. Appendix A explains the process in greater detail, or if you would like to come in, someone will sit down with you and explain the process.

000/1132 & 1180

Why cut back on the allowable cut as proposed in Alternative A, and let one of California's main agricultural products go to waste. We need either Alternative H or I, to keep the Forest going.

See response to 000/0545

000/1264

I urge you to meld Alternative E with your Preferred Alternative A

We will be adding some uneven-aged timber management to the Preferred Alternative in the FEIS. We will also be strengthening some of the S&Gs with respect to riparian, watershed, and wildlife.

000/1319

I have recently been made aware of the Management Plan of the Forest now under consideration, I want to express my concerns over these issues.

See response to 000/0545.

000/1331

I am in agreement with Sequoia Forest Industries in that there are only three acceptable alternatives to the proposed Plan.

Thank you for your comment

000/1426

The Preferred Alternative of the proposed Plan does not adequately allow for use of the resources the Forest has to offer.

Individual resource specialists were involved in determining what was best for their resource. These specialists are experts in their field and protective of their resources and do not want to see them adversely affected. This, plus public involvement, has given the Forest Service a sound basis for the data contained in the Plan.

000/1512, 1231 & 1619

We think the Plan is excellent and achieves a good balance in protecting the Forest while providing for appropriate multiple uses

Thank you for your support.

000/1551

The flaws that I find in Alternative A are; 1) not enough land is withdrawn from mineral entry, 2) too much commercial timber is harvested, especially in riparian areas, 3) too much range land, and 4) there is no increase in wilderness areas.

See response to 000/0555.

000/1595

The Plan does make some excellent recommendations. It's nice to see that some rivers have been suggested for WSR status. The establishment of Research Natural Areas and Special Interest Areas is a positive step. The restriction of OHV use is an important part of the Plan.

Thank you for your support. We are in the process of developing an OHV Plan for the Forest. We will be asking for public input soon.

002-RPA ALTERNATIVE (C)

002/0030

Alternative C reasonably satisfies the need and desires of the citizens of Madera County. It offers an acceptable middle ground.

Thank you for your comment.

002/1231

CSPA opposes Alternative C.

Thank you for your comment.

002/1290

I urge you to adopt either Alternative H-MKT or C-RPA as your management plan for the future of the Forest.

See response to 000/0545.

002/1505

I think that the Forest should adopt a management plan which will place appropriate emphasis on timber production to properly manage and utilize the resource as well as to provide jobs and revenue for surrounding counties. The two alternatives that appear most likely to achieve an optimum multiple-use policy are H-MKT and C-RPA.

See response to 000/0545.

002/1727, 1600, 0387, 0288 & 1727

I can support Alternative C-RPA and H-MKT without qualification. It provides an adequate volume of timber, protects fish and wildlife habitat, maintains and enhances recreational opportunities, provides for quality wilderness experiences and helps in the area of water quantity and quality.

See response to 000/0545.

003-LOW BUDGET ALTERNATIVE (D)

003/1231 & 1412

The CSPA prefer Alternative D

Thank you for your comment

003/1551

Alternatives D and E are good because riparian habitats are not degraded, animal grazing is decreased, timber production is low and wilderness lands are increased. Both have low budget costs to implement and high benefit/cost ratios.

See response to 000/0555.

004-AMENITY ALTERNATIVE (E)

004/1055

Sequoia chapter, CNPS feels that Alternative E is far superior to any other plan because of the long-term resource protection that it provides

Thank you for your comment.

004/1335

Alternative E has been called an "Amenity Alternative", this is not so. These are national treasures and resources not to be given lightly to anyone.

See response to 000/0555.

004/1420

I support the Conservation Alternative

Thank you for your comment.

004/1533

The Forest Plan lacks a true amenity alternative. The one the Plan calls an amenity alternative, will reduce grazing permanently. It will increase timber harvest above current levels by 1996. No alternative explores the reduction of all commodity resource outputs to the benefit of amenity values, and the Plan is biased towards commodity oriented alternatives.

See response to 000/0555

004/1535

We thank you and commend your Forest staff for the WSR recommendations, but feel the Plan tilts too heavily toward timber extraction and away from wilderness and amenities protection. Therefore, we urge adoption of the Amenities Alternative, or the Conservative Alternative supported by environmental groups.

See response to 000/0555

004/1550

The Yosemite area Audubon salutes your intentions regarding the peregrine falcon, bald eagle, goshawk, spotted owl and willow flycatcher. Our concern is, that these good intentions may be in conflict with your timber and grazing proposals. We therefore, support the Amenity Alternative in

respect to all of the resources except recreation. We are opposed to OHV routes. With regards to wilderness, we feel that groups in wilderness areas should be limited to 10.

See response to 000/0555 The Kaiser Wilderness has a limit of ten because it is much smaller than the others. All others have limit of 25 Your proposal will be considered when the larger Wilderness Areas become more congested.

004/1551

I strongly support Alternative E, because this is the only alternative which improves riparian zones, provides a large increase in habitat improvement for fish and wildlife, and emphasizes acquisition within wilderness areas. Timber production is covered adequately under the alternative as well.

See response to 000/0555

004/1562

Alternative E is my choice It offers the best balance between conservation and cost-effectiveness I am especially concerned with preserving wild lands and rivers, minimizing the damage done by grazing, timber harvesting and other silvicultural activities, OHV use, hydroelectric and other water projects.

See response to 000/0555

004/1619

We are opposed to Alternative E.

See response to 000/0545

04/1639

Since timber is being cut at rates faster than regeneration my choice is Alternative E with absolutely no clearcutting Alternative E would also apply to small hydroelectric projects which are inappropriate for the Forest streams and ecosystem.

Your preference for Alternative E was considered during our analysis Alternative E was modified to eliminate clearcutting on tractor ground

004/1660

The plan that we prefer is Alternative E, with D & A as second and third choices

See response to 000/0555.

004/1684

I support the addition of the Upper Kings River Roadless Area into the adjoining John Muir Wilderness For this reason, I support Alternative E over A

Congress has recently passed a law designating this area as a special management area It will be managed according to a management plan currently being prepared.

Alternative E sounds like the best goal to plan for in the year 2030. While I generally support Alternative E, I could live with most provisions of Alternative A

See response to 000/0555.

004/1777

Although we can support many of the elements of the Preferred Alternative we find that Alternative E best meets the concerns of our membership Alternatives C, F, G, & H would unduly sacrifice fishery and other amenity values in favor of timber production and are unacceptable to this organization.

See response to 000/0555.

005-CONSTRAINED ECONOMIC-EFFICIENT FOREST ALTERNATIVE (F)

005/0016 & 1231

I am opposed to Alternatives F, H, and I. These three seem to me to be the ones that are least sensitive to wilderness and ecological values.

See response to 000/0555

005/0064

Alternative F is not beneficial due to the inability to protect water quality, riparian corridors, soil productivity, wildlife and fish habitat. Hydroelectric projects and the lack of OHV enforcement will increase the impacts on the Forest and are not a benefit. Chemical pest and vegetation management is not a benefit either.

See response to 000/0555

005/1551

Alternative F is totally unacceptable because of the adverse impacts on soil productivity and water quality and large scale destruction of oldgrowth forests and special habitat components, expansion of the road system, large system of fire breaks, and high budgets.

See response to 000/0555

005/1602

I feel after reviewing the document, that in order to have a continued healthy timber harvest and afford ample protection to the resources, Alternatives H, C, & F are the best choices.

See response to 000/0545.

006-MARKET ALTERNATIVE (H)

006/0305

I am not in favor of Alternative C, F, H, or I from a timber standpoint.

See response to 000/0555.

006/0505

We are concerned about the Forest Plan that would reduce the timber cut to 125MMBF. A reduction would close mills, put workers on unemployment, lose taxes to counties, schools, and have a domino affect in the building rates. We understand and realize that there is controversy over the spotted owl. An alternative to setting aside acres would be to use land in National Parks and existing wilderness for the owls.

See response to 000/0545 and 383/0545

006/0519, 0874 & 0828

I support Alternative H

See response to 000/0545

006/0528 & 0441

I am writing this letter to express my feelings about the proposed Plan. I would like to see a Multiple Use principle incorporated. I suggest that you support the reasonable requests of the lumber industry by adopting the Market Alternative. The alternative will enable all of those who live in the area to have a secure and productive future.

See response to 000/0545

006/0698

I urge you to adopt the Market Alternative, it will be the most effective and encourage sound uses of our renewable resources.

See response to 000/0545

006/1002

We support the goals and objectives of Alternative H, the "Market Alternative."

Your preference was considered in making our decision. There are trade-offs between higher levels of timber production in Alternative H; effects on fish, wildlife visual, and recreation resources; and effects on local employment and local government finance. All of these effects are described in the FEIS and were considered in making the decision.

006/1362

Alternatives F, H, and I are "resource mining" alternatives that should be dropped from consideration.

See response to 000/0555

006/1505

I think that the Forest should adopt a management plan which will place appropriate emphasis on timber production to properly manage and utilize the resource as well as to provide jobs and revenue for surrounding counties. The two alternatives that appear most likely to achieve an optimum multiple-use policy are H-MKT and C-RPA.

See response to 000/0545

006/1550

We feel Alternative H is definitely not in the best interests of the Forest, or in the long run, the county. It will result in the cutting of marginal areas (ie. Mariposa District), which have poor regeneration prospects and will cause soil, aesthetic and habitat degradation. It will also increase the losses the Forest sustains on timber sales. As taxpayers we resent the current 1.3 million dollar loss so that a few lumber companies may benefit, while the resource suffers.

The national debate over the issue of below cost sales continues. Since the DEIS was issued the Forest has been implementing an accounting system that utilizes "generally accepted accounting principles", approved by the GAO. A 1987 test of the system indicated that the Forests' timber program made a financial profit in 1987. In addition, the 1987 program created additional net economic benefits that will accrue in the future as well as beneficial local socio-economic effects.

006/1581

Alternative H is superior to the Preferred in that; 1) there would be an expansion of existing facilities. 2) Trails would be made safer through resource protection by 2005. 3) Developed site capacity would increase 10% by 2000. 4) The number of camp units would increase with user fees.

See response to 000/0545.

006/1839 & 0288

I support the Market Alternative, and feel that in these days of economic instability and deficits, we cannot afford to lose any sort of sound revenue-generating businesses. I am confident that when all is said and done, a sound management Plan will be formulated. I hope the final decision made by

the Forest Service will be based on the purpose for which the Forest Service was created, multiple use

See response to 000/0545

007-HIGH PRODUCTION ALTERNATIVE (I)

007/0305

I am not in favor of Alternative C, F, H, or I from a timber standpoint.

See response to 000/0545.

007/1176

I feel the survival of our town depends upon Alternative I being chosen.

See response to 000/0545.

007/1492

Adopt one of these Alternatives, C, H, or I as the most acceptable treatment of the timber resource.

See response to 000/0545.

007/1551, 0712 & 1231

Alternative I is totally unacceptable because of the adverse impacts on soil productivity and water quality, large scale destruction of oldgrowth forests and special habitat components such as, snags and downed logs, expansion of the road system, large system of firebreaks and high budgets to implement. This alternative is unbalanced, and not in the best interest of anyone

See response to 000/0555

008-NEW ALTERNATIVE

008/0055

I oppose the Forest's Preferred Alternative. I recommend this very fragile and unique Forest be saved so as to serve man and all life, and to save this Forest by establishing the Sierra National Forest as a permanent dedicated natural preserve. With each such natural preserve to protect ecosystems, watersheds, save and enhance all wildlife, fish and botanic habitat areas, protect and promote all biological resources and their natural diversity. Preserve rivers and streams.

See response to 000/0555.

008/1682

Alternative B which presently serves as the no action alternative, can be revised and redesigned as a realistic "no action" plan. Instead of a 1982 baseline year, we request a 1985-86 baseline that reflects deep Forest budget cuts under the Reagan administration, and cuts and fund reallocations by the 99th Congress. Alternative B under this baseline design is also the Budget Alternative

NEPA states that the "no action" alternative can be interpreted in two ways; 1) the do nothing strategy and 2) the existing situation which was used in this EIS Region 5 decided to use 1982 as the base year or existing situation This no action is the basis of comparison of all other alternatives

009-CONSERVATION ALTERNATIVE

009/0084 & 0207

I support the Conservation Alternative to the proposed Forest Plan

See response to 000/0555.

009/0223

I support the Conservation Alternative, no roads, no motorcycles, no noise pollution and no eroded hillsides

See response to 000/0555.

009/0243

I support the Conservation Alternative Keeping this area as road free as possible would help to protect the wildlife and guard against over usage Since such beautiful areas are at a premium in Central California, a sensible plan for enjoyment and recreation, not commercial exploitation will ensure the future of this great area

See response to 000/0555.

009/0808, 0942, 1198, 1513, 1549 & 1560

I support the Conservation Alternative asking to designate the roadless Upper Kings River Canyon as wilderness and proposing that less clearcutting be done than the Forest is suggesting.

See response to 000/0555

009/0911

Your proposal recommending WSR status for segments of rivers is to be commended. Please know that we support the Conservation Alternative.

See response to 000/0555

009/0946

Your Conservation Alternative is an excellent balance between preservation and development.

See response to 000/0555.

009/0963

I support the Conservation Alternative, which increases all wilderness areas.

See response to 000/0555

009/1211

I support the Conservation Alternative, especially with regard to road building. I think that road building should be limited because of the serious impact on the future use of such areas.

See response to 000/0555.

009/1212

I have read that there is a Conservation Alternative to the Plan I have not studied it in detail, but it seems to merit careful consideration.

Thank you for your comment. The Conservation Alternative as well as all proposed alternatives were given careful consideration.

009/1339

I encourage the Conservation Alternative, since it alone recognizes the long term interests of local land owners and users

See response to 000/0555.

009/1346, 1347, 1610 & 1306

I support the Conservation Alternative

See response to 000/0555.

009/1513

We urge you to adopt the Conservation Alternative, which designates the KRRRA as wilderness, and allows less clearcut timber harvesting. We have enough open space for OHV's to tear up, let's keep them out of our Forest's and wilderness areas

See response to 000/0555

009/1533, 0017, 0963 & 1732

We propose lower outputs than called for in any of the plan alternatives, with significantly longer rotation ages, decreased emphasis on even-age management, preservation of selected stands of oldgrowth, a significant decrease in the overall timber base through removal of marginal areas whose management for timber production would only be economically feasible in the event of a significant increase in timber prices in the future

All of the plan alternatives propose unacceptable, and unsuitable timber management prescriptions. Even the amenities alternative calls for an eventual increase in timber harvest. We believe that all the alternatives are biased toward timber management over all other uses of the forest, and fail to support the balanced mixed use of the forest resources the Forest Service purports to espouse.

The Conservation Alternative was considered in our analysis. Please see Section 2 of the FEIS. The Amenity Alternative was modified to eliminate clearcutting on tractor ground.

009/1539 & 0017

I support the Conservation Alternative and sustained yield. Too short rotation and cutting of young trees to produce more low quality timber, which will not sell well, and will reduce employment.

See response to 000/0555

009/1540

We believe, from evidence presented in the Conservation Alternative, formulated by the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club, that Alternative A would seriously limit the capacity of the Forest to deliver the promised high quality of wilderness experience for the increasing numbers who will seek this kind of recreation in coming decades.

See response to 000/0555 and 009/1212.

009/1565

I am writing to express our support for the Conservation Alternative of the draft Plan, for the Merced River. This river needs WSR status from it's head waters to Lake McClure. The south fork is a gem. Also, please ask FERC to delay Joseph Keating's project (small scale hydroelectric) on the Merced until after Congress decides the fate of the Merced.

See response to 000/0555 and 361/0219

009/1654

I understand organizations have drafted a Conservation Alternative to your Plan. I wholeheartedly approve and support your proposed Plan. You should revise the Conservation Alternative. Any compromises with special interest groups should not be allowed to have an impact on this Plan.

See response to 000/0545

009/1799

I urge you to seriously consider the Conservation Alternative for the Forest, drawn up by the Tehipte Chapter of the Sierra Club. While electric power and timber are important economic goods for our society, the Forest is not the appropriate location for which to draw these resources. Please look again at the Alternative, we don't want to lose this valuable natural wilderness.

See response to 000/0555 and 009/1212

009/1800

I feel the Conservation Alternative will do a better job of protecting important resources in the Forest, while at the same time supplying an adequate level of commodities. In conclusion, I reiterate my support for the Alternative.

See response to 000/0555 and 009/1212

009/1811

Due to the limited range of alternatives, we must support the Conservation Alternative. This proposal is the only alternative which would protect the roadless areas in the Forest, limit the use of herbicides, and reduce the level of clearcutting.

See response to 000/0555 and 009/1212.

010-AIR QUALITY

010/0297

I agree with Standard and Guideline 207. I also do not think you should do something without permission from the State.

Thank you for your support.

020-BASS LAKE

020/0200

We are quite concerned about the loss of revenue to our resort if the upper road is built. No other resort on the lake would be affected by this Plan. Would an access road be provided from the upper road to the rear of the resort? How will our vendors get to the store? We have approximately 42 large truck deliveries per week. Any road we build through resorts affects safety and solitude of Wishon Camping, renters and the PG&E camp. We don't feel these questions have been thought about or answered.

Access will be provided to all resorts and campgrounds if an "upper road" is built on the west side of Bass Lake. No facility will be left without access.

Concerning Crane Valley relicensing, we feel that this proposed Plan will have a direct effect on visitors to the SW shore of Bass Lake. This issue has an impact on people visiting day-use areas, resorts, campgrounds, and those driving around that part of the lake.

A bike path/running path/walking path will replace the present road along the SW shore of the lake, should an "upper road" be built. Such a path will make the areas more peaceful and less congested. These areas will continue to be enjoyed by recreationists. Those wishing to drive along the upper SW road would still have this opportunity, as well as those willing to walk or bike along the SW path of Bass Lake.

020/0320

I have some reservations about the Plan, it is my understanding that it would affect the SW shore of the lake. This area is the most beautiful and peaceful part of the lake. It would be nice to have a bike or running path around the lake, but don't eliminate vehicle traffic. There are a lot of handicapped, older people, and families that enjoy that area.

See response to 020/0200

028-RESORTS

028/1149

We are very concerned with an inconsistency noted in this Plan. On pg 3-2 sec 3.3, it says the demand for developed recreation is expected to increase from 1.6 million visitor days in 1985 to 2.1 million visitor days by 2015. Standard and Guideline #244, you have proposed no expansion of overnight facilities at the Forks Resort. You allowed for an increase in overnight campgrounds, but excluded the Forks. We need expansion if we are to compete with other businesses.

Perhaps facilities are sufficient to meet the demand, but we feel we're at or near capacity presently and will not be able to compete with other businesses in the area without our overnight stays.

We agree that there should be limited expansion of the boat dock at the Forks and Wishon Resorts. However, we need limited expansion in our overnight stays to sustain the grocery store and restaurant business.

Some expansion of boat dock, restaurant, and grocery services will be allowed at the Forks and Wishon Resorts, with acceptable site implementation plan approvals. Overnight facilities will remain at present capacities, unless monitoring and planning shows that capacities can be increased without environmental impacts to these lands that are administered by the Forest Service. Sufficient overnight capacity, if needed, can be provided in Oakhurst.

We don't want overnight boat mooring limited. Presently, we provide seasonal stay moorings for us to keep slip storage in water through the season. The dock would have to be long and extend far out into the lake, causing an unsafe condition.

This concern is correctly stated. Moorings on private land are not subject to restrictions by this Plan.

Increase overnight campground capacity to 2500 PACT by 2000. If a minimum of four nights was imposed, some of the problems of empty sites during peak periods could be eliminated.

Imposing a limitation of four nights visitation during the summer would allow more people to use Bass Lake. Those people wishing to camp for a week to ten days would be forced to move to another area. It is felt that a ten day limitation is best for most users at this time.

040-ECONOMICS

040/0386

Never before have we felt such a threat as we do now with the controversy over the Forest Management Plan. If more timber is placed in wilderness, it would have a negative effect upon our businesses. Canadian wood is an equal threat and it's nice to see your government reacting to that problem. Having held an annual fishing and hunting license for over 17 years, I feel my opinion is

not biased toward the timber industry We hope decisions will consider negative impact in economic chain and be thoroughly understood when made.

Your preference for not including more areas with timber in wilderness was considered in our analysis. The land base that is capable, available and suitable is shown in EIS Chapter 2.

040/0511 & 1808

I heartily support Alternative H and C, both of which provide adequate volumes of timber while at the same time protect fish and wildlife, maintain and enhance recreational opportunities, and provide for quality wilderness experiences Limited timber production will cause a decline in revenues to counties which will effect schools, local government and hundreds of businesses/employees. As much weight should be given this, as is to environmental issues.

Your preference was considered in our analysis There are trade-offs between the higher levels of timber production in Alternatives H and C; effects on fish, wildlife, visual and recreation resources, as well as effects on local employment and local government finance. All of these effects are described in the EIS and were considered in our analysis.

040/0996

I am concerned about the social and economic consequences that will result regarding the amount of timber to be harvested in the Forest. Your decision affects more people and businesses than just those firms and their employees who harvest and process timber. Timber harvesting ripples out and touches counties and communities far beyond the Forest

The analysis of employment effects contained in the DEIS and FEIS accounts for the "ripple" or "multiplier" effects of the alternatives. We have also added additional detail on the local timber economy in FEIS Appendix L

040/1002

A more detailed and thorough review would strengthen the understanding of the relative importance of commodity production from the Forest. MMRs and MIRs are imposed in a way that all alternatives considered in detail are environmentally sound, environmental considerations tend to drop out as decision making criteria Social and economic considerations then become of prime importance. Yet the discussion of those effects is limited.

Alternatives considered in detail have environmental conditions that do not meet or exceed levels specified in the MIR's and MMR's. Trade-offs between social and economic effects and environmental conditions above the MIR and MMR level are considered when making a decision and are discussed in the economics and trade-offs analysis section of the EIS Chapter 2. See Tables 2.36 and 2.37, with accompanying narratives for further information

If non-cash benefits comprise 85-90% of PNV, the value of non-cash benefits must be carefully derived and substantiated Development of PNV's concurrently with hard cash values, is a confusing approach to value analysis, and is misleading The activity which produces the greatest cash benefit, timber management, also produces many non-cash benefits but there is no corresponding allocation of costs. DEIS pg 2-170, Table 2.34 includes the benefits but not costs to water resource. Costs but not benefits of the road system and "pre-roading"

The basis for the cash and non-cash benefits used in the analysis is described in FEIS Appendix B, Sec.B.5.3 They were derived for the 1985 RPA using methods that are well established in the resource economics literature. For additional reference, see Appendix F of both the 1985 RPA FEIS and DEIS. A cash flow analysis is included in EIS Chapter 2 (Table 2.35) for those who wish to focus only on cash receipts and expenditures All of the quantifiable costs and benefits for each alternative are accounted for in the DEIS Table 2.34 pg. 2.170. The intent of the table is to disclose total costs and benefits for the alternatives and how they are distributed by resource and cost category. The table was not intended to identify linkages between individual management activities, benefits, and costs. There are many of these linkages since forest management is a "joint production process". The incremental water yield benefit is a by-product of timber management. The road costs under the heading "roads" are "purchaser credit" roads which are primarily a cost of timber management. Appropriated roads are under the "other" category Although all costs and benefits

are accounted for in the table, description of all of the linkages between them is complex and beyond the intent of the table.

The use of 1982 as a base year is misleading. 1982 was a low point in timber harvest. While you recognize that after 1980 the combined milling capacity on the Forest was affected by 60 MMBF with the loss of 3 mills, this is no reason to reduce the timber program. Mills do not create demand for wood products, people do.

The 1982 base year was selected nationally as the base year for Forest plans and the 1985 RPA. The timber figure shown in the DEIS tables is the volume offered in 1982, which is identical to the average volume of 110 MMBF sold over the five year period 1983-1987. The volume actually harvested at the bottom of the last recession in 1982 was only 58 MMBF. We have added Appendix L to the FEIS to provide additional information on the broader level timber supply situation and regional economies.

If raw material is not available, the timber industry will not be the primary sufferer, the consumer will be. While the Forest may not appear to be a major source when considering national wood supply level, the whole is made up of the sum of its parts, if each part doesn't do its max, the "whole" will suffer. Where commodities are concerned, you do not operate in a vacuum.

We have added Appendix L to the FEIS to provide additional information on the timber supply situation and regional economies

A phenomena in recent years tends to distort analysis of future supply and demand unless specifically recognized. A series of economic and political factors have caused Canadian lumber imports to supply an increasing percent of our domestic softwood lumber market. The Canadians have had to increase their production in order to meet our demands. Therefore, in the face of increasing domestic demand, import volumes will decrease. With 3 alternative sources of softwood facing an immediate need to reduce, inevitably the consumer will turn to public lands of the west to supply his needs.

We have added Appendix L to the FEIS to provide additional information on the broader level timber supply situation.

We have prepared an "annual cash benefit/cost" ratio analysis. Both Alternatives A & H have positive ratios, 1.63 & 1.67. Alternative H has a slight edge. When one adds that to the obvious economic benefits outlined for the five decade period, it is harder still to ignore Alternative H.

Your preference for Alternative H, higher levels of timber production, and alternatives with high cash benefits were considered when the final decision was made.

We note, with regard to "consumers surplus and equitable user fees", outputs of developed recreation at 781,700 RVD, dispersed recreation 2,095,800 RVD, wilderness 462,800 RVD and wildlife and fish 495,600 WFUD. The list applied to Table B.05 developed recreation values at 38.7 million. You actually collect less than .5% of that amount

You are correct in your finding. As indicated in EIS Appendix B Sec. 2.6.3, it is currently national policy to provide most Forest outputs either at no charge to consumers or at a charge less than willingness to pay the price. Proposals to increase user fees are currently being debated between the Administration and Congress.

040/1348

The results of Forest products becomes a part of our economic chain, creating thousands of jobs in California. Jobs are articles of commerce, they are an integral part of our economic chain, and people in those jobs become the buyers of our products.

The economic chain or "multiplier" effects are included in our estimates of total employment effects of the alternatives. We have included additional information on timber related employment effects in FEIS Appendix L.

040/1369, 1056, 1178, 1282, 1533, 1562, 1677, 1695 & 1815

Recreation is open to all, whereas below-cost timber sales subsidize a few logging companies, enabling them to make profits at government expense. To assert that the roads constructed for timber sales are assets offsetting losses is ludicrous.

The national debate over the issue of below cost sales continues. Since the DEIS was first issued, the Forest has been implementing an accounting system that utilizes "generally accepted accounting principles" approved by the GAO. A 1987 test of the system indicated that the Forest's timber program made a financial profit in 1987. In addition, the 1987 program created additional net economic benefits that will accrue in the future as well as beneficial local socio-economic effects.

040/1492

How do these benefits and the question of equity involved, and who gets them and who pays the cost, differ in concept to visual quality, diversity or cultural site reservations, in their ability to be assimilated in the alternative and in the consideration that they should receive in the choice of alternatives to be implemented? How are they any less subject to efficiency criteria than even some of the priced outputs such as WFUD's and other dispersed recreational use for which no charge is made?

See response to 040/1533. Visual quality, diversity, and cultural site reservations can not be valued but are explicitly considered as part of net public benefit; see Appendix D. The question of equity, or how effects are distributed among the various social groups, is addressed in the social consequences section of EIS Chapter 4.

Use of these fees in the PNV benefits column makes me uneasy. It is much greater than anything collected so far by the Forest. Projection of these arbitrary values into the future, and melding them with commodity values (stumpage) based on factual prices of today is an attempt to combine apples and oranges. I do not believe these types of fees should be collected. To include them in the management plan, assumes that they will be collected, and initiates the process of implementation. This is quite political and may win public acceptance only with difficulty and over a long period of time. To include a steady income-benefit stream starting immediately is probably over optimistic, and overstates the recreational contribution to the PNV.

See response to 040/1533 and 1002

040/1528

You say 4,000 jobs are generated by forest management programs. What percent of total employment does this represent? Is this figure significant enough to affect how the forest should be managed?

See Sec. 3.4 of the DEIS for the total employment in the local economies. This is less than 2% of the total employment in Fresno, Madera and Mariposa counties. Not a large effect in the overall economy, but significant in individual rural tourist and timber oriented communities. Employment effects are one of many types of effects considered in our analysis.

I question your statement that timber values have increased greatly over the past decade. What evidence is there to support this claim, on which you base your decisions on appropriate harvest levels over the life of the Plan? How much have values increased for recreation and water? What support do you have for these claims?

Average stumpage prices received have more than doubled at a rate in excess of the rate of inflation in the economy. Estimates of recreationists' willingness to pay have also increased at a rate faster than general inflation. Because of limited profitability in agriculture - the primary water user, willingness to pay values for water have not increased faster than general inflation. See the 1985 RPA FEIS - Appendix F for more details.

040/1533

From an economic standpoint the Plan has a built-in proclivity toward unbalanced management, with the revenue-producing activities, notably timber production, receiving a disproportionate emphasis.

"Willingness to pay" values are assigned to activities that do not produce revenue and are included in the economic analysis. In addition, effects that cannot be quantified and valued are a part of the determination of "net public benefit". See EIS Appendix D, for the benefits that can be valued. Timber accounts for less than 15% of total discounted benefits (DEIS Table 2 34, Present Net Value - Comparison of Alternatives)

040/1581

It is our recommendation that you adopt Alternative H as the most balanced approach to providing maximum net public benefits during the plan period. This Plan would provide reasonable amounts of commodity values that will enhance a measure of balance in benefits derived from the Forest and contribute significantly to the stability of tributary communities while responding to growing demands for wood products.

See response to 040/0511

040/1711 & 1808

If the economy of a community is to be adversely affected, then let it be based on solid economic facts and not on computed projections that are based on assumptions that may or may not be correct. If the North Fork Mill is closed based on reductions in the annual harvest, then it appears to me that the appraisal haul costs will increase, thereby reducing the stumpage value.

Effects on community economics were considered in our analysis. Additional information on effects to individual mills and communities has been added to FEIS Appendix L. We agree that mill closures can affect stumpage values, both by affecting haul cost allowances in appraisals and by reducing competition in local markets.

040/1775

When considering timber harvest levels, you should consider more than the economic impact on local communities. The economic impact on the millions of recreationists who drive hundreds of miles to your Forest should also be considered. Keep in mind the economic value of those recreational visits when you consider the travel expenses and income forgone.

The estimated willingness of recreationists to pay for the experiences provided is valued and included as a part of the economic efficiency analysis - see Appendix B, Sec. B.5.3 and EIS Chapter 2 Sec. 2.10. Employment and income effects of recreation/tourism as included is a part of the employment and income effects shown for each alternative - see Chapter 4 Sec. 4.3 as well as Chapter 2 Sec. 2.10. Regional recreationists are also a social group used in the social analysis - see Chapter 3 Sec. 3.3.1.3 and Chapter 4 Sec. 4.2.

040/1806

The Plan greatly over-emphasizes timber, range and mineral production and road construction. The Plan relies on highly flawed statistics and economics to greatly overestimate long term sustained yield. It frequently uses narrow and misleading assertions in an attempt to justify production over protection, and intends to avoid studies that would expose these deficiencies. I have no problem with Fire Management by prescribed burn or allowing lightning fires to burn naturally in some areas.

The DEIS used the best information available. We have added new information on the timber supply-demand situation, (Appendix L) and budget relationships, (Appendix P) to the FEIS. Your preferences for reduced commodity production was noted and considered in our analysis.

040/1827

I cannot stress enough how important this LMP for the Forest is to the social and economic basis of Dinuba. The Sequoia Forest Industry is the largest employer in the area and the largest source of business license revenue to the city. This license revenue is put back into the city as police, fire, roads and schools, and the list goes on.

Effects on community economics were considered in our analysis. Local economies and effects on them are discussed in the social and economic sections of FEIS Chapters 2 & 3 as well as in DEIS Chapter 2

040/1830

We are killing the American Dream here. Where did the Market Value come from, what does it mean? You seem to have the attitude of, "that's industry, that's bad. Lets make a park out of it". You want to make a park for your children so they can see a tree. What about having food and roof over their heads. That's what is really in jeopardy

We have evaluated effects on both market and non-market values in the EIS and considered both when making our decision. Your preference for not foreclosing opportunities and for utilizing market resources was considered in our analysis

041-NORTH FORK

041/0066, 0071, 0259, 0263, 0446, 0467, 0513, 0525, 1209, 1334, 1468, 1651, 1702, 1710, 1796, 1851, 1858 & 1859

The affect of the ASQ on the community of North Fork

Many respondents stated that current levels of harvest are too low, and if the ASQ was not raised to 160 MMBF, the North Fork mill would close and adversely affect the town of North Fork.

Other respondents gave diverse reasons why ASQ under the Preferred Alternative was too high. They claim that the budget needed to produce this level of harvest is unrealistically high, and gives an undesirable subsidy to the timber industry because revenues would not cover costs to the Government. There were strong objections to using pesticides, clearcutting and harvesting timber on marginal timber land. They point out the potential impacts timber harvest may have on resources such as Soils, Watershed, Wildlife habitat, Riparian zones and request more land be assigned to resources other than timber production.

Timber industry advocates claim this amount is insufficient to support mill operations at levels like those experienced in 1986, 1987, and 1988. Should favorable market conditions continue, uncut timber under contract will continue to decline leading to increased competition and prices.

The general pattern of mill closures in California indicates that mills in mountain locations are at a competitive disadvantage to those located in the Central Valley. The highway network allows mills located in the valley to haul logs from a broader supply area than mills located in the mountains. Hauling logs from a larger supply area also allows mills to expand and take advantage of economies of scale

As competition increases, mills, such as the North Fork mill, are more likely to reduce operations. This is a consequence of mountain locations and exclusion from small business set-aside sales available to the Madera and Sacramento mills. The Auberry, Dinuba, and North Fork mills are under single ownership, and during periods of market weakness, the owners historically have curtailed operations at the North Fork mill first. Although an investment in a cogeneration plant makes this mill more cost effective, the mill is still less efficient than the other mills. Cogeneration provides a small edge or cancels the disadvantage of the mill's poor location. Based on the history of this area's mill operations, the Forest would have to provide 137 MMBF ASQ to the local mills in order to provide the North Fork mill with sufficient timber at prices that would allow it to remain competitive

A loss of timber-related employment opportunities in the foothill area is possible over the next 15-25 years even if the Forest could sustain annual harvests in the neighborhood of 150 MMBF. This decline would occur as a consequence of more efficient capacity added to mills in more favorable locations and increased competition from mills outside the traditional market area.

The views on ASQ are divergent. Some argue for jobs, families, and businesses, while others argue for soil, fish, wildlife, riparian zone, and visual quality. The Forest's responsibility is to weigh all values and needs and select an ASQ that provides a balance between maximizing timber production on lands capable and suitable for growing timber and protecting other values and resources.

An increase in the ASQ above the Preferred Alternative level would result in an unacceptable risk and impact on other resources. A reduction of the ASQ below the Preferred Alternative level would result in an unnecessary reduction in the Sierra's capability to produce timber on a sustained basis, provide jobs and support businesses.

041/0543

The design of this proposal would have a major affect on this town, my family and others. Please keep this town alive and my family together.

Your preference was considered in making our final decision. There are trade-offs between the higher levels of timber production alternatives, effects on fish, wildlife, visual, and recreation resources; and effects on local employment and local government finances. All of these were considered during our analysis.

041/0582

I am concerned about the amount of timber that can be harvested on an annual basis. If the amount is restricted and continues to decline it will have a very negative impact on my job, family, community, local schools and local government.

See response to 041/0543.

041/1132 & 1808

Mill closure will mean the loss of employment for hundreds of people. The town of North Fork will dry up, and it's stores and school will suffer.

See response to 041/0543

041/1176

The long and short of it all, is this, many of us will lose our homes, businesses will be forced to relocate or fold, quite a few teachers will lose their jobs, the county will end up absorbing a lot of the loss visa-vie welfare, etc. There will be more crime, robberies, vandalism and possibly suicide. Where are the laws to protect the people of North Fork?

See response to 041/0543

041/1478

The towns of North Fork and Madera County all derive their livings from the timber industry.

See response to 041/0543.

041/1480

Consider adopting Alternative C or H as they provide the jobs necessary to help keep North Fork going. Provide the Forest with a proper balance.

See response to 041/0543

041/1483

You should keep in mind the impact it will have on our community. Saving trees and our natural environment is important and should be a priority but I know the timber industry does have that in mind, and there are ways to protect the environment without causing economic problems.

See response to 041/0543

041/1489

The lumber company here in North Fork is the backbone of our community and without it our community will collapse. Also the Auberry Mill and lumber company will expire.

See response to 041/0543

041/1703

I am certain the Forest Service does not want to destroy the economic and social viability of the North Fork community, nor do I suspect that the Forest Service intends to impose economic hardships on our county road systems and our schools. The proposed reductions in the ASQ, (of the Preferred Alternative), from the current 152 MMBF a year to 125 MMBF a year will in effect do just that.

See response to 041/0543.

041/1787

North Fork's future is not dependent upon the Mill. Oakhurst has lost both it's mills over the years with no noticeable decline in its economic growth--indeed the closing of the mills probably enhanced its economic condition. Tourism, retirement, and commuter homesites are the force that drives the local economy. North Fork is heading in the same direction

A significant portion of the North Fork economy is dependent on the North Fork mill. Please see answer to the North Fork economy question in the timber response section.

042-OTHER MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES

042/0639

What happens with the future of the Sierra Forest will have a dramatic effect to timber companies, jobs, families, and to all of us who live in this area.

See response to 041/0543.

042/0652

The Plan as I understand it calls to reduce the timber cut for our use in making lumber. The community surrounding these mills, they depend drastically on the currency flow to stay alive. As for scenic beauty of the landscape, I really don't think it has an effect on it.

See response to 041/0543

042/0654

I work in the timber industry and this will have a direct impact on my family and many of my friends who are involved in the manufacture of lumber

See response to 041/0543.

042/0671

Any damper put on the growth of such a fine area as this and that employ so many people working together would make one wonder. I hope we can find a balance to make a Plan that helps both the wilderness and the community; maybe participation and awareness is the key.

See response to 041/0543.

042/1468

The Forest is capable of producing quantities of timber larger than that stated in the Preferred Alternative (125 MMBF). Stability of timber dependant communities should be reevaluated with respect to long term demand along with other assets being considered as manageable.

See response to 041/0543

043-SCHOOL DISTRICTS

043/0195

Forest Reserve Funds are a significant part of the schools operating budget. An 18% reduction would deny the schools over 52,000 a year based on current timber harvesting practices.

See response to 041/0543.

043/0591, 0058, 0258, 0259, 0280, 0446 & 0814

The effect the ASQ has on schools.

Your preference for a higher ASQ to help finance schools was considered during our analysis. There are trade-offs between the higher timber production in Alternative C and H and the Preferred Alternative. These trade-offs include effects on resources such as Fish, Wildlife, Soils, Water, Riparian zones, Visual and Recreation, local employment and local government finance including the financing of schools. All of these effects are described in the EIS and considered in the analysis.

Your letter and many others state current harvest levels are too low and if the ASQ is not raised, revenues to counties will decline.

Other respondents gave diverse reasons why the ASQ under the Preferred Alternative was too high. They claim the budget need to produce that level of harvest is unrealistically high and gives an undesirable subsidy to the timber industry because revenues would not cover costs to the Government. There were strong objections to clearcutting, pesticides and harvesting timber of marginal timber land. They, also, point out the potential adverse effects of timber harvesting on resources such as Soils, Watershed, Wildlife habitat, Riparian zones and request more land be assigned to resources other than timber production.

The views on ASQ are divergent. Some argue for jobs, families, businesses and schools, while others argue for resources such as Soil, Fish, Wildlife, Riparian and Visual quality. It is the Forest's responsibility to weigh all values and needs and select an ASQ that provides a balance between maximizing timber production on lands capable and suitable for growing timber while protecting other values and resources. The Forest feels the final ASQ meets that balance.

043/1399

I am very concerned about the quality of education and the impact the closure of the mill would have on our school system. We would lose children and teachers, etc. We have a very high quality school here and we want to keep it that way.

See response to 041/0543

043/1836

According to Forest Service figures, over 29 million dollars was received by four Central California Counties in 1985, as their share of the Forest revenues and results from timber sales. This money goes to help schools and maintain our country roads. Increasing the harvest to or near the maximum ASQ would mean more money for our school children.

See response to 041/0543

044-FOREIGN IMPORTS-TIMBER PRODUCTS

044/1002

A shortfall in California supplies of timber would result in a regional need to import lumber from other sources, either domestic or foreign. The resulting shift of cash flows, financing, and cost structures go well beyond "local community". These are direct effects and should be recognized.

Thank you for your comment. We have added the Timber Supply Appendix in response to this issue.

045-SECURITY

045/0365

My feeling toward this is, I hope that things can be worked out right as we do depend on this source for our living.

See response to 041/0543.

045/0404

I am writing this letter about the proposed management plan. This will have a strong effect on this area and my family. I would like to see the Forest kept for everyone.

See response to 041/0543

045/0440

The Market Alternative costs reflect the timber industry's needs by providing a secure and social environment for myself, my family and our community.

We note your preference for the Market Alternative. It was considered in our final analysis. See response 000/0545.

045/0495

There are 110 employees at Auberry mill, 354 employees at Dinuba mill and 125 at North Fork sawmill. Most have families and are depending on the sawmill for our livelihood. Schools depend on tax monies generated by sale of timber. The Market Alternative will best fit the needs for Auberry mill and its community and the surrounding mills and communities. If you think the spotted owl has problems, wait and see what happens to Forest communities and their people, when we become the endangered species.

See response to 041/0066 & 041/0543.

045/0545

I would like you to take a look at our county roads in the mountain areas. It's so obvious what causes the wear and tear, lumber trucks. The Forest Reserve funds should be used on the area that the income is generated from, and used to repair mountain roads, not used in the valley.

The money returned to the counties from timber receipts is used where the county chooses to use it. The Forest has no control over how and where it is used.

I am also deeply concerned with the high priority put on the environment and the total disregard for the economy of the community and the welfare of many families.

See response to 041/0543

045/1126

If this plan to reduce the annual cut to 125 MMBF will create a competition amongst the smaller loggers, it will put about 50% of us out of business.

See response to 041/0543

045/1303

How do I get the idea that there will be a loss of employment if the currently suggested timber harvest schedule is selected for use over the next ten years, a minimum use of time? The net timber requirement of the existing local mills from the Forest which is 157 MMBF would not be met.

See response to 041/0543

045/1828

We would like to remind people, if they are not aware, that one timber employee generates three to five jobs in a related industry. Therefore, according to the 1980 census, the 2,465 industry jobs generate somewhere between 6 and 12,000 other jobs. All of these people are going to be affected by any changes made, the major changes being the allowable cut.

See response to 041/0543.

Women in timber represent approximately 280 of the career women, as well as the wives and the families that are most directly affected by any and all changes that are made on this Forest. I would like to look at it from the viewpoint of most of the people that I live with every day. Our view comes from homes and back yards from where our children and grandchildren play. We all have mortgages to pay, children to raise etc. Our dreams hinge on our jobs, which in turn rely on the allowable cut from the Forest.

See response to 041/0543

046-TIMBER REVENUES

046/0508, 0467, 0945 & 1652

I am writing about timber harvesting reduction. My business is producing packaging materials. Timber and lumber availability effect marketing trends, such as increased export or curtailed timber sales, this makes our industry suffer either shortages or higher prices. No excessive raw material in recent years, with reduced timber will leave us with short supplies soon. Add the tariff on Canadian lumber shipments to states and it slows down/shortens needed supplies.

Comments state a reduced ASQ would adversely affect prices of wood products and reduce the volume of business in secondary and service industries. Increased Forest demand and the limited ASQ may contribute to upward pressure on lumber prices. However, past experience indicates imports from Canada will fill the gap between domestic demand and domestic production and tend to keep wood product prices close to current levels. See Appendix L for a discussion of broad trade and price effects

046/1002

We do not want to open the issue of equitable user fees for all, but do observe that of all the willingness to pay values, timber is the only resource whose actual cash receipts reflect that value. It is ironic that timber should be singled out as the only resource subject to "below cost" scrutiny.

We agree with you, however, the resource where greatest public interest has been expressed is in below cost timber sales.

The Economic analysis is extremely narrow with respect to expanded effects of the timber management program. While you acknowledge value received of 115.66 MMBF during the period 1979-1982 you leave the reviewer oblivious to fact that the government receives an even greater cash

value from approximately 120 MMBF in combined corporate and personal state and federal income taxes

You are correct. However, we do show total income generated in the local economy including taxes levied on local income, which results in additional government revenue. See Summary Comparison of Economic Effects by Alternative, Table 2.25

Appendix B, pg. 7-34 and its report of 115 66 MMBF including the value of the roads received for harvest from 1979-82, if we apply 115 66 to the 621 MMBF harvested from 1979-84 we find the Forest should have received cash and capital assets 71,825,000 from the timber program. If that was representative of the 6 year period we could assume that the timber program returns to the government 64% of the total cost of running the Forest.

We agree with your comment.

046/1492

Over 90% of the cash returned to the people by their forest "business" comes from the sale of timber. The true value of the cash products of the Forest is recognized. If it is closed or obscured by the addition of fictitious or non-existent returns of great magnitude, it is difficult for planners, managers and the public to see, utilize and appreciate the priorities. Direction for management may be less than optimal because of confusion or lack of understanding.

The Forest agrees that over 90% of the cash returned to the people comes from timber. However, we disagree that recreation, water and other benefits are fictitious just because it is government policy to provide them free or at minimal cost to consumers.

046/1817

The commodity emphasis of the Forest Service should be eliminated. Consumptive uses such as timber and range should not be subsidized. On a national scale, public range provides an insignificant amount of production and should be eliminated on those lands which do not show a profit to the government. Timber sales which do not reflect costs to the government have been responsible for the lack of reforestation on private lands, if the prices were more realistic, private landowners would be more likely to spend the money on reforestation of their own lands.

There are trade-offs between the higher levels of amenities in each of the alternatives. effects on timber production, range, and forage production, water production and effects on local employment and local government finances. All of these effects are described in the EIS and were considered in our final analysis

The California Forest Practice Act requires private landowners to submit a logging plan for reforestation to the State for approval prior to any harvesting. The effect of Forest Service timber supplies on all timber markets has been analyzed. Please see Timber Supply in Appendix L.

046/1828

The counties of Fresno, Madera and Mariposa received \$2,286,000 in 1985 in timber revenues. Any reduction in sale quality will naturally mean a reduction in these receipts. This, in turn, is going to cause a reduction in the money that is available to maintain schools and roads at their present levels

See response to 041/0543.

050-ENERGY

050/0738

I know that by installing an electric plant it provides power throughout this plant. My vote is to go on with building a plant at North Fork.

Sierra National Forest does not have jurisdiction on this matter.

050/1710

We encourage the use and removal of forest residues for the production of biomass. We would also like to see a slight revision in the statement listed under Standard and Guideline #98, p. 4-29 of the Plan We would like it to read as follows: "Removal of biomass should be given preference to firewood within the boundaries of active timber sales.

We considered your comment, however, we feel that offering fuelwood to the public is important for saving energy and provides an important recreational opportunity.

060-FACILITIES

060/1213

Consider building the Oakhurst Ranger Station at Batterson Work Center.

We would like to undertake this project in the near future

060/1418

Newly developed facilities should be located away from sensitive areas

We agree, we do not envision many new facilities being built Those that are built will avoid sensitive areas in keeping with S&Gs

060/1684

I can support the objectives outlined in Alternative A, including the replacement or upgrading of some Forest Service buildings I cannot think of any structure on the Forest which I would consider "extravagant," most are marginal at best

Thank you for your comment

060/1790

I support keeping as much as possible outside of the forest boundaries, but I also support facilities within the boundaries which clearly support Forest Service objectives where remote facilities would not

Thank you for your comment

070-FIRE

070/0037

S&G 211 is important in protection of the woods themselves.

The Preferred Alternative will add to the protection of the National Forest Lands.

070/0112

How many fuelbreak areas will you create and maintain?

Some of the fuelbreak areas are identified in the Appendix of the Plan During the implementation phase of the plan, specific fuelbreaks will also be identified.

070/0117

You should increase fire prevention, presuppression, fuelbreak systems and fire safety programs so people will know more about camping You should also encourage cooperation and coordination with appropriate agencies so fire management will turn out better. Providing intensive law enforcement is a great idea so fewer people will get hurt in forests. Increased tree disease and pest

management programs to attain growing desired number of trees is not good. It is just a waste of the taxpayers money

The preferred alternative calls for an increase in all aspects of fire management and law enforcement. It also calls for increased cooperation with other agencies involved in wildland management and law enforcement. An increase in efforts to rid the Forest of insect pests and disease, in our opinion, is cost effective in management of a healthy forest environment

070/0993

Your attitude towards fire shows a lack of understanding of the established integral role of fire in the Sierran ecosystems. Fires are necessary for a healthy forest ecosystem. Section 3 23 of Alternative A appears to be in conflict with section 4.27C of the Plan. In response to OMB criticism of spending more to suppress wildland fire than land will be worth, Fire Services could reduce costs by recognizing the role of fire in Sierran ecosystems. Prescribe/let-burn could reduce potential for catastrophic fire, at the same time reducing personnel and control costs.

We feel the Plan understands the role of fire in the Sierran ecosystem. Fire will play an important role in maintaining a healthy forest environment, where there is no adverse threat to public life and property. In the wilderness areas, natural and prescribed fire will enhance and maintain the environment. The fire management organization identified in the preferred alternative is the most cost efficient considering fixed costs, suppression costs, and resource loss.

070/1658

I support Alternative A, although 11% for fuels management is too low in view of the activity fuel accumulation.

Thank you for your support. The 11% is just the fire management portion of fuel management. There is a substantial increase in the other functional areas, such as timber slash disposal, grazing betterment, and wildlife enhancement.

070/1669

This program is good, it should be extended across the front country and be managed in a number of units which seek about 20% every 5 years.

There will be a regular continuing management program in the front country.

070/1684

I support Alternative E with elements of Alternative A. I have no problem with the proposed fire management percentages.

Thank you for your comment

070/1710

There appears to be no major fire management plan as it stands currently. There is a need to include criteria for fire control as spelled out on pg. 4-12 of the Plan. Special attention should be given to Sec 211 on pg 4-39 of the Plan which refers to increases in fire prevention activities.

Upon approval of this Plan, fire management area action plans will be prepared. Action plans will describe the appropriate suppression response along with other fire management activities such as prevention.

071-WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION

071/1669

Possible agencies should be identified so that the public can request the support of these agencies as well as other agencies that may volunteer

A list of cooperating agencies is not in the text of the Plan, but is in the Appendix

071/1726

The Plan should provide fire management direction in the event an initial attack fails in rugged, inaccessible, low resource value areas.

When a fire escapes initial attack, an Escaped Fire Situation Analysis is prepared. This analysis is an "on-going" process and has been standard policy for a number of years. Low value along with environmental concerns, political concerns, safety, and costs are considered prior to setting the overall fire suppression strategy.

071/1817 & 1669

I am very happy about your enlightened attitude towards fire. It is refreshing (and unusual) to find a forest in Region 5 that realizes that fire is part of the natural scheme of things. Congratulations on an excellent write-up. Natural fire is being recognized as an important part of the forest. All areas of the forest should be inventoried to determine where and when natural fires could be used. Human caused fires should not automatically be suppressed.

Thank you for your support.

080-FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT

080/0087

Standard and Guideline #216 is important in protecting the living things in the woods.

Thank you for your support.

080/0092

I believe you should increase the control of insects and diseases around the area.

Your input was considered in our analysis

080/1601

Forest Management Plan does not adequately address the increasing occurrence of White Pine Blister Rust and its impact on the allowable cut, regeneration success, and salvage cutting.

The Forest mortality from White Pine Blister Rust is included in the annual mortality calculations and therefore is included in the Forest ASQ

080/1658

I support Alternative A, no pest management should be allowed in wilderness

Thank you for your support.

080/1684

The differences between Alt A and E involves only 32,330 acres
However, I feel more comfortable with the language in Alternative E.

Thank you for your comment.

090-GRAZING

090/0082

I disagree with increased grazing. Give present grazing permittees lifetime leases. Then terminate all allotments, especially allotments in wilderness. Cows are noisy, increase erosion, alter species composition of meadow species and contaminate water with pathogens such as Giardia.

Livestock grazing in wilderness is authorized under the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964. Elimination of grazing from wilderness is outside the authority of the Forest Service and this Plan. Montane meadows are managed for multiple use with emphasis on maintaining and improving meadow ecosystems and water quality. Grazing is allowed where the meadow ecosystem or water quality is not be adversely affected.

090/0089

In the Plan, Sec 4.5 2 7, it sounds like rangeland will be planted for use by cattle, and roads will be maintained by cattle. Is the rancher assessed for this? I understand the land should be planted to prevent erosion, and cattle grazing helps clear dead grass.

The recommended chaparral management program reflects a balanced program of what we think we can do within the limitations of available manpower, expected funding, and other resource conflicts. The intent is to provide a balanced diversity of age classes of brush, grasses, forbs, provide fuel reduction for fire protection and enhanced wildlife habitat, as well as forage production for grazing. These projects will be multifinanced and coordinated with cooperating agencies, such as the California Department of Fish and Game. Roads will not be maintained by cattle. Removal of the grass while it is still green reduces the dead grass buildup and reduces fuel loading and the threat of wildfire.

090/0191

Rush Creek and Big Creek areas are designated "front country" in your plan. We do not believe that wildlife and range management should be emphasized in Sec. 16 and 27 (or in other high to moderate areas, to the extent they exclude mining).

Thank you for your comments. Mining has not been excluded from section 16 and 27. The emphasis for the "front country" is range, wildlife and protection of watershed values. Sections 16 and 27 are primarily private land which is not subject to Forest Service management.

090/0210

The improvements to the plan that I have to offer are: More wilderness, especially the KRRRA, and less land for timber and grazing.

Your comment was considered during the preparation of the Final Plan

090/0262

Generally, I was favorably impressed with the "preferred alternative". However, I would urge adoption of a more conservation-oriented approach to grazing. Meadows in the higher elevations are not able to produce much feed for animals. These areas should be preserved for deer and other wildlife. Grazing in the higher elevations should be more limited. Cattle grazing should not be allowed where Giardia is known to be a problem.

Meadows are managed under multiple use and sustained yield principles, with emphasis on maintaining and improving meadow ecosystems and water quality. Many mountain meadows are capable of producing 3,000 to 4,000 pounds of forage per acre with declining yields in the very high elevation meadows. All warm-blooded animals including humans are capable of acquiring and spreading Giardia.

090/0464

Relative importance of grazing and hydro impacts on willow flycatchers is acknowledged in Sec. 4 8 of the DEIS; impacts of the alternative plans on willow flycatchers are based solely on the expected increases in grazing pressure.

Thank you for your comments The effect hydroelectric projects have on the willow flycatcher is disclosed in specific project EAs or EISs

090/0921

Reasons for cattle grazing on the Forest Lands: The high cost of irrigated permanent pasture has shut down most of the cow/calf industry in this state. Increasing the cost of forest grazing fees would accomplish the same result By cattle grazing on the Forest Service lands, encroachment of brush and lodgepole pine on meadows is kept at a minimum. We are told that grazing is subsidized. Why don't they pick on recreation which is really subsidized. We endorse the practice of control burns to aid in wildlife feed.

Thank you for your comments.

090/1018

I believe cattle on the Forest is good. I think there should be more spots for release and pickup so the area would not be so damaged. I believe people are more important than animals.

Thank you for your input More improvements will be developed in pickup and release areas as range betterment funds become available.

090/1178

We do not favor increasing AUMs to 44,000 per year. The current program is not paying cost necessary to supervise the program. We favor chaparral conversions. We would like a program to phase out all cattle allotments in the wilderness areas. A plan to reduce cattle grazing in key deer fawning areas is urgently needed

The increase in grazing as prescribed in the Preferred Alternative to 41,600 AUMs per year is based on sound range management principles. They do not necessarily mean an increase in livestock numbers, but a combination of adjustments of season of use and numbers to achieve this goal. We also favor chaparral management. The recommended program reflects a balanced plan of what we believe we can do within the limitation of available manpower, expected funding, and resolution of resource conflicts. The intent is to provide a balanced diversity of age classes, fuel reduction for fire protection, enhanced wildlife habitat, increased forage for grazing and enhanced recreation access. We are currently working with the Department of Fish & Game to increase cover in key deer fawning areas

090/1282

According to the Plan, pg 3-10, 33% of grazing occurs on annual grasslands below 4,000 feet The remaining 67% occurs in small, high elevation meadows and on transitory range in logged areas. What percentage does each of these two types account for? The plan states the high meadows cannot support increased grazing The DEIS states that grazing may be resumed on 10 high elevation allotments, primarily in wilderness areas that haven't been grazed by cattle for 30 to 40 years. These areas are currently grazed by 4,000 recreational horses Grazing is known to be one of the most environmentally degrading activities on the Forest. Grazing on high elevation meadows should be stopped immediately.

Grazing in montane meadows and transitory range in the timber zone equals approximately 80% and 20% respectively. In two alternatives described in the DEIS , the proposal to resume grazing in the high elevation allotments is considered The preferred alternative, however, does not propose resumption of livestock grazing in these allotments but they are reserved for recreation and packer-outfitter guide use as you suggest

090/1360

About 35,000 AUMs annually of grazing are realized on the Forest and will be increased to 44,000 AUMs annually, principally by intensification of grazing on annual grasslands, conversion of chaparral to grass, and other developments. We support the Forest Service in these activities and for its plan to discontinue use of low forage producing ranges at higher

elevations and making grazing adjustments. We hope that some of the now uneconomic meadowland would be transferred. The permittee would benefit, trail maintenance would be reduced, and the recreational experience would be improved.

Thank you for your support.

090/1362

Why are high elevation allotments which have been closed to grazing "because of conflicts with other uses" being considered for resumption of grazing? It should not be allowed except where conflicts with other resources are nonexistent. Why should the public pay \$1.60 to \$3.10 per annual AUM developed when the grazing permittees returns an average of less than \$1.50 per AUM for the use of Forest Service range?

In developing a range of alternatives for the DEIS, the resumption of livestock grazing was considered in two alternatives. The preferred alternative does not propose resumption of livestock grazing in the closed high elevation allotments. Any additional AUMs developed through vegetation management program will be conducted in low elevation chaparral vegetation and will be funded by fire, wildlife, and range management with corresponding benefits. Grazing fees are determined by Congress and are outside the authority of this Plan.

There should be no range improvement to increase AUMs unless they are cost effective. This would include an economic evaluation of the loss of the public's resources due to the additional degradation resulting from more livestock use. Increases in winter and early spring grazing on low elevation land should only be allowed in extremely wet years where abundant grass is available and, then, only when and where approved by a Forest biologist.

The Forest Service and agencies such as the California Department of Fish and Game have undertaken prescribed burning in the chaparral zone for many years. Proposed range improvements include multifunded and multibenefited prescribed burning. These activities are designed to enhance wildlife habitat, reduce heavy fuels for fire protection, improve recreation access, as well as provide forage for grazing. We believe these activities are cost effective because of the derived benefits. In addition, seasonal adjustments (not necessarily increases in livestock numbers) and range improvements such as fences and water development to adequately distribute livestock, will contribute to the increased AUMs proposed in the Preferred Alternative. Conflicts with other resources will be addressed on a case-by-case basis and will be coordinated with range, wildlife, recreation and fire management personnel. We feel grazing is an ideal tool for managing vegetation. Without grazing in the annual grassland, the fire hazard, even in a dry year, would be greatly increased.

090/1414

The proposed grazing plan should be subject to careful inspection as grazing appears to do a great deal of damage with little or no positive profit to anyone except the grazer.

The Forest currently conducts rangeland inspections. Evaluation of rangeland revisions of allotment management plans are a continuing process. We recognize there may be some isolated instances of damage. Our records indicate the condition of our rangeland has improved substantially over the past 30 years.

090/1418

Any increase in grazing should come as a result of chaparral treatment programs for control of wildfire. Cattle grazing can be used to graze on burnable grasses, as a method of fuel control. Under no circumstances should it come at the expense of Native Wildlife Areas that have been overused and should be closed to grazing as well as sensitive wildlife habitat and riparian areas.

Management and treatment of selected chaparral areas will allow for a moderate increase in livestock grazing. Coordination with fire management will achieve multipurpose benefits, not just increased grazing. The entire Forest is native wildlife habitat and is not overused. Riparian areas and meadows are managed under multiple use and sustained yield principles with emphasis on maintaining and improving riparian ecosystems. Management emphasis will be based on ecological principles aimed at reducing identified conflicts with other resource and uses. Conflicts will be addressed on a case-by-case basis using applicable research as it becomes available.

090/1520

The effect of reduced shrub cover, soil surface disturbance, and removal of herbaceous cover through grazing will result in increased erosion. Stocking rates should be reduced, riparian mitigation should be increased. Grazing fees should be increased to reflect industry standards. We are concerned with proposed increases in grazing. Increases are not adequately discussed. High mountain meadow streams must be completely excluded from grazing activities.

Livestock grazing has been an integral part of the Forest for 100 years. More recent improved grazing management and administration, reduced stocking rates, adjusted seasons, etc., has not increased erosion. Grazing fees are determined by Congress and are outside the authority of this Plan.

090/1528

I strongly support increasing range carrying capacity in the low chaparral rangelands as a means to eventually eliminate grazing in subalpine and alpine areas.

Commercial grazing has been absent for several years from some subalpine and alpine areas. However, elimination of all grazing in subalpine wilderness areas is outside the authority of the Forest Service and this Plan. These areas are currently being utilized by recreation pack and saddle stock. Increases in grazing will be planned in the annual grass - chaparral areas, as anticipated range improvements are completed.

090/1530

Cattle are another culprit causing erosion. Especially annoying are the cattle that trample and munch meadow wildflowers and are always there while one tries to enjoy a simple picnic.

Meadow wildflowers are an integral part of our montane meadow ecosystems, and as such contribute to the total forage biomass grazed by cattle.

090/1533

In the Plan, grazing would gradually increase. This would result from chaparral conversion, to which we do not object if done by prescribed burning, not herbicides. The Plan should specify exact management plans for increasing grazing areas by region, including techniques and costs of chaparral conversion, techniques and resources for protection of riparian zones, sensitive plant areas, reforested areas, etc. Specific formulas for decreasing mountain grazing and techniques are needed.

Manipulation of chaparral will include various methods and techniques available to the Forest Service, within the limits of available manpower, expected funding, and resolution of resource conflicts. Chaparral management plans are very broad at this time, however more site specific plans and environmental analysis will be prepared on a case-by case basis. This Plan will not include detailed discussion of management plans and strategies for grazing. This will be covered under individual Allotment Management Plans. Techniques and costs of chaparral treatments will be discussed in individual project proposals and Environmental Analysis (EA's) as they are proposed and developed. Sensitive plants and their habitats will be protected through the life of this Plan.

090/1551

Domestic grazing on forest lands often forces wild grazing animals into less than suitable habitat as well as increasing the danger of spreading domestic diseases.

Research does not support your contention that grazing forces wild grazing animals into poorer habitat. We are not aware of incidences of cattle spreading diseases on the Forest.

090/1570

Commercial grazing in forest areas affects too much of the wildlife and vegetation at lower altitudes. Blue Oak has been greatly diminished due to overgrazing. What will happen at the higher elevations?

The Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experimental Station has conducted research on the effects of livestock grazing on blue oaks for the past 50 years. Their data show that the blue oaks have not decreased due to livestock grazing. Livestock grazing at higher elevations as proposed in the Plan will not diminish the vegetation in these zones either.

090/1619

We are opposed to Alternative D. The livestock industry fell upon hard times in recent years and cutting production and possibly increasing costs under Alternative E could put many livestock men out of business.

Please review the Preferred Alternative. The Forest Service has proposed Alternative A, not D or E.

If it is found that livestock endangers the willow flycatcher, efforts should be made to work with the livestock permittee involved. Large scattered growth of willow that cannot be penetrated by cattle may be one solution to the problem.

Efforts have been made to conduct studies to determine livestock and willow flycatcher interaction. A few meadows with willow complexes have been fenced to exclude livestock. This information will be used to help resolve conflicts on a case-by-case basis.

It is important that funded projects for range betterment be coordinated with the grazing permittee, since the permittee is especially aware of the situation within his permit.

Range betterment funded projects have been coordinated with grazing permittees in most cases. We agree that permittees are aware of the needs on our grazing allotments.

With more roads and increased traffic, it is important that existing stock driveways be maintained.

Established stock driveways will be maintained within the Forest.

We would like to see the intermediate allotments monitored for their capacity. We do not feel that they should be written off as being stocked to their capacity. As these allotments are within the highest timber-producing areas, grazing may be increased as the timber is harvested.

We believe that the intermediate and high elevation allotments are stocked to their capacity, with some potential for a slight increase. Seasonal adjustments depending on annual forage production, is a method used to increase AUM's of use, (not necessarily increases in numbers). Transitory range forage provided as a result of timber harvest is useable for only a short period, and will help to alleviate use on the mountain meadows. The greatest potential for increase in AUMs will be a result of the chaparral management program in lower elevations.

We would like to see the reopening of those allotments that have been closed.

Resumption of grazing in the vacant high elevation allotments as discussed in the DEIS, was proposed in two alternatives. The preferred alternative does not recommend resumption of livestock grazing on these allotments. Forage in these areas are reserved for wildlife, recreation, pack and saddle stock, and outfitter guide stock.

090/1639

All mountain grazing allotments should be reevaluated. Letting cattle stay in the mountains from September 15 to October 15 is severely impacting deer browse.

It is our professional judgement that there is no conflict between livestock grazing and quantity/quality of deer browse between September 15 and September 30. We are working toward an earlier offdate in this high elevation allotment.

090/1658

I support Alternative E. An increase of AUMs on annual grasslands will result in a downward trend in range conditions.

We disagree that range condition will decline in the annual grasslands if managed properly in accord with approved Allotment Management Plans and sound range management principles. Contrary to your comment, our records indicate that the condition of the annual grassland has improved significantly over the past several years.

090/1669

The general issue of cattle use versus other resource use is not addressed in the Plan, pg. 2-6.

Thank you for pointing out the need to add cattle uses to the General Issue section of the Plan. The Final Plan will include a brief discussion of cattle.

Plan, Sec 3-11 states "...almost all primary rangelands are in fair or better condition with an improving trend " We question the data used to support this for two reasons: The Parker three step method has been largely abandoned as inadequate for its purpose, and because of this, there has been little if any meadow monitoring done for the past 15-20 years. Improvements may reflect cosmetic change resulting from reduced stocking levels.

The monitoring section of the Plan will be changed to include periodic condition and trend of the range resource. The data used to determine the condition of the ranges was determined from state-of-the-art techniques and methods available at that time While monitoring of the meadows has not been done as frequently as needed, we feel, as you have stated, that improvement of our range in general is a result of reduced stocking levels and adjusted seasons.

Standard and Guideline #68 needs to be clarified. How would grazing be increased? By allowing more animals? By extending the season?

Increases in AUMs in the Plan will be a result of a combination of allowing more animals in the lower elevation chaparral management areas, extending or adjusting grazing seasons, issuing temporary permits in years of abundant forage production, and construction and maintenance of range improvements to distribute livestock and achieve proper utilization.

The term "low forage-producing area" from Standard and Guideline #69 needs to be quantitatively defined

S&G #69 has been deleted. For your edification, low forage producing areas are those that do not produce to their full potential.

Meadow improvements and grazing strategies should be implemented.

Grazing strategies are currently being implemented on all allotments to achieve proper distribution and utilization. The Forest Service inventories meadows and riparian areas that are in need of improvement (Watershed Improvement Program) Watershed restoration funds are used to treat and restore damaged meadows. If sites needing restoration are within areas used for intensive ongoing resource management activities, the activity causing the impact bears the expense of restoration Oftentimes, a source of erosion or damage cannot be attributed to one activity, but is a cumulative effect throughout a watershed from many contributing causes.

090/1684

I am not convinced that chaparral to grassland conversion is wise or cost effective, nor that forest rangelands can support 44,800 AUMs. I can't support Alternative A. I would however, support Alternative E RPA goals aren't realistic Rangeland improvements should remain constant, depending on forage in a given year. The "land" should determine the number of cows allowed to graze on it, not RPA goals or industry groups exerting political pressure.

The 41,600 AUMs recommended in the Forest Plan includes 4,000 AUMs for recreation horse use during peak recreation periods. The chaparral management program is multifunctional and multibeneficial. Range improvements such as fences, water developments, etc. are maintained annually by grazing permittees Allotment Management Plans are developed with range inventory data and these determine the number of livestock permitted to graze in the Forest.

090/1693

We don't need more forage for cattle We need more opportunity for escape from congestion. So, please don't put cattle ahead of people.

Your input was considered during the preparation of the Final Plan.

090/1700

The Forest Service places excessive emphasis on grazing at the expense of maintaining diverse and productive wildlife habitats

We believe that grazing is compatible with maintaining diverse wildlife habitats.

090/1716

CNPS is concerned with the increases in grazing AUMs proposed. Damage from livestock to range, riparian, and meadow habitats are recognized by the Forest. Livestock spend a disproportionate amount of time in riparian and meadow habitats and will overutilize forage in those areas long before moving on to transitory ranges. The Plan states most of the increase will be from intensification of grazing on annual ranges. These areas harbor several sensitive plant species. How will grazing effect them?

The Forest recognizes isolated and local damage due to livestock use. The proposed increased use in the annual grass ranges will be a result of multifunded chaparral management activities such as brush crushing, prescribed burning to enhance wildlife habitat, reducing high hazard fuels, as well as providing additional grass forage for livestock use. Grazing of this forage should not adversely affect sensitive plants. Many of these plants in the chaparral areas are dependent upon fire for regeneration. Sensitive plant inventories will be conducted in the chaparral areas being treated and avoidance or mitigation measures will be provided

090/1777

We support a reduction in AUMs within the Forest as recommended in Alternative E. Cattle severely impact riparian zones and wet meadows. Cattle contribute to erosion and the resulting siltation of streams. EIS should fully describe the impacts of grazing.

Riparian areas and meadows are managed under multiple-use and sustained yield principles with emphasis on maintaining and improving meadow ecosystems and water quality. The Forest recognizes that in isolated locations, cattle impact portions of riparian zones and meadows. Increased human activity is also contributing to heavy impact on the fragile riparian ecosystem. Conflicts between grazing and other resources will be addressed in Allotment Management Plans and will be resolved on a case-by-case basis.

090/1787

The target of a 25% increase in AUMs by type conversion, water development, and fertilization is totally unrealistic and not economical. No valid economic analysis would justify the cost of the expensive conversion and management practices. This leaves entirely unconsidered the erosion, pollution, and interference with recreation caused by cattle grazing.

We agree that fertilization should not be recommended and have reduced AUM's based on fertilization. Prescribed burns and other brush treatments are multifunded with benefits to several resources including wildlife, fire, range, and recreation access. Our experience does not indicate that there is excessive erosion, pollution or interference with recreationists in the annual grasslands. These projects will be completed only after an Environmental Assessment is prepared.

090/1798

Livestock grazing on the Forest is inappropriate when it competes for habitat with wildlife species. If livestock must be allowed to use public land, this use should be below the 4,000 foot level.

Livestock grazing on Forest lands is authorized under approved Allotment Management Plans. Wildlife habitat and forage requirement values are considered in the preparation of these plans. The management of the Forest is based upon the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960, that states, in part, that the Forest "shall be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, wildlife and fish purposes." Forest administrators are, therefore obligated to manage the land for these multiple uses.

090/1811

The environmental impacts of grazing are ignored in the DEIS, despite an increase proposed for most alternatives. The grazing in the Forest is such a small portion of the statewide total that serious consideration should be given to eliminating grazing entirely. The benefits to wildlife of such an action should be analyzed in this Plan.

Elimination of grazing is outside the authority of the Forest Service and this Plan. Grazing is allowed where the various ecosystems or water quality is not adversely affected. The Forest Service recognizes the full range of benefits received from proper livestock management, including the maintenance of wildlife habitat. Grazing has been an integral part of the Sierra National Forest for 100 years and contributes to the economy of the local livestock industry.

090/1815

We strongly object to the amount of timber harvesting projected and, for similar reasons, to the proposed amount of grazing.

Your comment was considered during the preparation of the Final Plan.

090/1817

Grazing should be eliminated from those areas where it is being subsidized by the government. Costs to the government (and to the public) should be covered by fees. Grazing should be eliminated from wilderness, roadless areas, and RNAs because of conflicts with other values, grazing in these areas is rarely economical anyway.

Grazing is not subsidized by the government. The principle used in the grazing fee model was that the value of the public land is equal to the rental value of private pastures leased for grazing after adjusting for differences in the costs of service provided on the private land, but not on the public rangeland. Grazing fees are assessed and must be paid before livestock enter the Forest. The grazing fees and elimination of grazing from wilderness areas are established by Congress and are outside the authority of this Plan.

091-WILDERNESS GRAZING

091/1669

How will forage be managed in wilderness areas in accordance with existing allotment plans? Is management restricted to numbers of seasons or can and will active improvement and grazing mitigation of range resources in wilderness be pursued?

Forage capacities have been inventoried in wilderness areas and these capacities have been allocated for livestock grazing and wildlife uses. Allotment Management Plans address how the wilderness areas are to be grazed to achieve the proper distribution and utilization without affecting other resource values. Conflicts with other resources are addressed in the Allotment Management Plans and are resolved on a case-by-case basis. Allotment Management Plans spell out numbers of livestock, season of use, distribution patterns, and allowable use factors. Annual Operating Plans which detail how grazing in wilderness areas is to be administered, are written each year and discussed with the permittees.

091/1715

There are clearly serious conflicts between recreational use and cattle grazing in middle and high elevation areas. These conflicts are not adequately addressed in the proposed Plan.

In areas where recreation is the management emphasis, livestock management can and will be modified when identified to be in direct conflict with those recreational uses. Identified conflicts of this nature will be addressed in Allotment Management Plans and Wilderness Recreation Plans.

091/1817

Table 2.04 of the EIS is indicative of the Forest's ridiculously permissive attitude towards grazing. None of the management prescriptions are closed to grazing RNAs certainly should be closed. Wilderness should not be locked into the current level. If cattle were "allowed to re-enter the Ansel Adams Wilderness in 1984," they can be allowed to leave in 1987. Please abandon those vacant high elevation allotments

Elimination of grazing and grazing in the wilderness is outside the scope of this Plan and the authority of the Forest Service RNAs under the proposed Plan will not be grazed, but grazing in the wilderness is authorized under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the California Wilderness Bill of 1984 Livestock management can, however, be modified in areas of identified conflict.

091/1822

Intensive cattle grazing, as proposed by your plan, which would adversely effect the wildlife and the natural vegetation should be ruled out.

Livestock grazing as proposed in the Forest Plan will not adversely effect wildlife and the natural vegetation Intensive management of grazing is needed to ensure compliance with Allotment Management Plan goals and objectives, to ensure proper distribution and utilization and compliance with annual operating plans

092-MOUNTAIN MEADOWS

092/1158

Mountain meadow deterioration caused by overgrazing was one of the main reasons for withdrawal of the Forest. The increase in grazing impact is opposed unless an equally intensive conservation plan of meadow restoration is implemented.

The planned grazing increases are programmed for the lower chaparral management areas and not in higher elevation allotments or wilderness areas Most of the high montane meadow areas have recovered significantly from past overuse. Many wilderness allotments remain vacant and are not currently utilized by commercial livestock

092/1669

We would like "Developed methodology to measure ecological condition and trend of montane meadows" to be added to the Appendix B Research Needs.

The Forest Service currently has a methodology, and is in the process of developing new state-of-the-art standards and methods to measure condition and trends in montane meadows. The techniques will be incorporated into our monitoring standards as soon as they are developed.

093-RIPARIAN AREAS

093/1055

Increase in front country grazing would be a fair trade-off for cutbacks in mountain grazing and not adversely impact foothill grassland if properly managed Rangeland management should be on contract to professional range management rather than Forest Service personnel.

The Preferred Plan does offer a trade-off between increased grazing in the front country and reduction of grazing in montane areas. Range management is conducted and administered by professionals in the Forest Service.

Reduction in cattle should not be limited to recreation, riparian, and deer range. Many mountain areas do not have sufficient forage and browse for the present number of cattle. Cattle should be herded during the summer to evenly utilize the resource.

Montane grazing areas are managed under multiple use and sustained yield principles with emphasis on maintaining and improving meadow ecosystems. In this Plan, grazing is allowed where these ecosystems or water quality is not adversely effected. Livestock are distributed to achieve even utilization of the forage resource through frequent riding and herding to minimize or avoid impacts to recreation, riparian, and deer habitat. We do require frequent herding in the summer, as well as other times of the year.

093/1843

Grazing of lower foothill annual grasslands, or front land, can be increased with proper management and provide additional resources as well as fire hazard reduction.

Thank you for your support

100-HERBICIDES

100/0064, 0017, 1055, 1610, 1669 & 1700

I do not support the use of herbicides

In May, 1988, a detailed analysis was made for the Forest to estimate the effects of not using herbicides would have on ASQ, reforestation costs, and suitable timber land base. This analysis showed.

	Allowable Sale Quantity	Reforest Costs/MMBF** Produced	Timber Land Base *M Acres
Ground Application only	-2%	No change	204
No Herbicide	-36%	+27%	157
* M = one thousand ** BF = board feet			

The normal process of regenerating a stand includes site preparation and release treatments. The mechanical removal of some species of competing vegetation is not feasible. It appears reasonable to treat these areas with herbicides two or three times during a 60-140 year rotation. The trade-off for not treating with herbicide is an increase in cost and a reduction of about 39 MMBF per year ASQ. A more detailed analysis can be found in Appendix U.

100/0464

To ensure the safe operation of electric transmission lines, PG&E needs to be able to apply approved wood preservatives for treatment of new and existing wooden poles. Apply approved herbicides for clearing around certain poles and towers, and possibly use a plant growth retardant on trees and shrubs in vicinity of energized power lines. PG&E will adhere to all forest rules in applying herbicides, preservatives or growth retardants on National Forest lands.

Since January 1984, the Regional Forester has suspended use of herbicides on National Forest lands except for certain exempt uses. The California Region is currently preparing a Vegetation Management EIS which includes the use of herbicides as well as other vegetation control methods. Until this EIS is completed and approved, this suspension will remain in effect.

100/0517

I am for selective and controlled use of herbicides for control of competition in reforestation efforts. I am for limiting the excessive development of roadless areas with roads, if they can be managed for timber using unconventional methods of harvest such as long multispans skylines or helicopters. I am

in favor of selective logging as opposed to clearcuts if the optimum timber management objectives can be met.

Your input was considered during the preparation of the Final Plan.

100/0545

Herbicides, control burns, and brush control are necessary tools for local ranchers and the logging industry to use for better land management. These tools are beneficial to the environment, wildlife, timber growth and man.

Thank you for your comment. We feel the proposed plan includes a good mixture of projects you support.

100/1002

The unresolved issue of herbicide use introduces a great deal of uncertainty therefore it is not possible to comment specifically on the land management implications of herbicide restrictions.

Regional forest planning direction specified that Forest timber outputs would be based upon the assumption that herbicides would be available. We included additional detail in Appendix U on the effects to timber outputs should herbicides not be available during the planning period.

100/1055 & 0349

I am opposed to the use of herbicides in the Forest. Our waters will be polluted, no one knows what health problems will be caused by continued use of herbicides.

See response to 100/0464.

100/1397

The use of herbicides is appropriate when needed for the most efficient stand establishment results.

Your input was considered during the preparation of the Final Plan.

100/1601

If herbicide use continues to be banned or severely restricted in the future, regeneration cuts as visualized in the alternatives will not be feasible. Herbicide use or lack thereof and associated allowable cut impacts have not been adequately addressed.

Additional analysis has been done on the effect of a herbicide moratorium on the Preferred Alternative. It is documented in the DEIS in Sec 2.5.3.3.

100/1663

Reduce the amount of clearcutting and herbicide use.

See clearcutting issue in Timber Responses Section 312. Since January, 1984, the Regional Forester has suspended use of herbicides on National Forest lands except for certain exempt uses. The California Region is currently preparing a Vegetation Management EIS which includes the use of herbicides as well as other vegetation control methods. Until this EIS is completed and approved, this suspension will remain in effect.

100/1817

Herbicides should not be used on trails.

See response to 100/0464.

100/1845

I have two major concerns, stemming from a 40 acre piece of property I am involved with near Soquel Meadow, about 10 miles above Bass Lake. One is with herbicide application associated with clearcutting scheduled to begin next spring adjacent to my property. The original Plan called for Vepar L, which causes serious and deadly effects to animals exposed to it. The amount now being used I don't believe would be great enough to cause damage though. The second concern is with the

perennial class one stream that runs adjacent to this clearcutting area and is the sole water supply for Bass Lake, the stream is called Willow Creek.

See response to 100/1663.

I should say that a temporary moratorium has been imposed on herbicide application in the National Forest by Zane Smith pending the outcome of environmental impact study. In view of the obvious health problems associated with herbicides, I would like to propose a permanent moratorium on herbicides in the Willow Creek drainage basin.

Your input was considered during the preparation of the Final Plan

110-HISTORICAL/CULTURAL

110/0175

Standard and Guideline #185 seemed to be a very good idea and is something I, and many other people will appreciate. #226 seemed like a good idea, but I also sympathize with those who own float aircraft and I think there should be some lakes where float aircraft are permitted. #147 takes an important stand that I approve.

Thank you for your support. There are only a few of the larger reservoirs on the Forest that could be used for float planes. Unfortunately for float plane advocates these lakes also are crowded with recreationists. The larger lakes also have good road access which negates any need of float planes.

110/1658

Alternative A is acceptable under cultural resources.

Thank you for your support.

110/1681

I am in total agreement with your Cultural Resources section. Particularly with Standard and Guidelines #'s 184 & 185. I also agree that you should retain Mono Hot Springs to ensure availability for traditional Native American's use. I similarly, applaud the ensured use and availability of plants for traditional Native American use.

Thank you for your support. The Forest understands that California Indians have a long history of cultural and traditional ties to the Forest. We wish to accommodate the needs of local Native Americans whenever possible with regard to their expressions of traditional values or cultural practices.

Thank you for being so explicit and making provisions for Blayney Hot Springs, so Native Americans can use it for their traditional and religious purposes.

We will ensure, to the extent possible under current law and regulations, access to areas traditionally used by Native Americans in their religious and ceremonial practices

110/1213

I especially like your priority for preserving and maintaining all historical structures. Providing a program of cultural history interpretation is long overdue.

Thank you for your support.

110/1372

Due to a high degree of contact between local Native Americans and the forest environment in maintaining our cultural traditions of ceremonial places, sources of materials for use in religion, etc., an elimination or reduction in the following areas should be considered: chemical application,

OHV, oak trees, and land acquisition. We feel the whole spectrum of cultural resources needs to be addressed equally.

Cultural resources play an important part in our land management decisions. Where land disturbance is involved, possible effects to recorded sites are considered prior to project approval as a matter of Forest Service policy and federal law. Through its cultural resource management program and environmental assessment process, the Forest attempts to identify resource issues and concerns important to various groups and individuals who may be affected. Oftentimes, project requirements and resource needs have to be balanced, and the Forest makes a good faith effort to ensure that cultural resources are not jeopardized or needlessly affected by any project

You recommend eliminations or reductions in several management areas. Each of these has been addressed during plan development. Chemical applications will only be employed under certain circumstances. Each instance will be subject to environmental review regarding possible effects. The Native American community can assist the Forest Service in reducing or eliminating possible risks to human populations who may inadvertently come into contact with areas receiving applications by participating in the planning process, and providing comments during public scoping

As for OHV restrictions in Jose Basin, the Plan only addresses restrictions on a general level. OHV use will be restricted to designated routes which will be identified in a separate document and implemented under the Land Management Plan. The OHV plan will be developed with public input and proposed restrictions to protect sensitive Native American values

Oak retention has been considered, but we have confidence an adequate quantity of oaks will be present under all alternatives to ensure a continued supply of acorns for Native American consumption. This is particularly true within lower elevation zones where conflicts between other resources are few. We will continue to manage oaks for a variety of public uses and natural habitat needs. We have always taken aggressive actions where illegal woodcutting is involved.

Regarding the Forest's land exchange program and its impact on Native American public land uses, virtually all proposed exchanges are preceded by public notification and requests for comments before a final decision is made. Native American concerns about specific parcels selected as candidates for exchange can be identified and addressed during the environmental planning phase.

As you know, the consideration and protection of archaeological and historical resources is required by law. The Forest strives to manage other cultural values in a similar manner to the extent possible as provided in Forest Service policy, law, and regulations. Management of public land, however, must consider competing demands on resources. Where there is discretion and flexibility, other cultural values will continue to be considered and emphasized whenever possible.

We do intend to increase public interpretation of cultural resources in the future as evaluations increase and inventories are completed. We will also continue to ensure Native American access to public lands and resources for traditional and cultural purposes.

110/1434

Be advised that Native American Indian settlement concentrations are also in the Ahwahnee, Oakhurst, and Coarsegold areas. You have listed Table Mt, which is out of your forest areas, but all of which should be included because they will be affected by this Plan. Plus, there is a very large population of American Indians from local and out of state tribes who reside in the urban and valley areas and have economic and cultural ties to the forest resources.

These communities have been added to the Plan.

Table 5.01 in the Plan states high risk sites should, and I agree, be monitored after project completion and on an annual basis. Moderated risk sites should have a monitoring period of every five years, and sites of a low precision/validity recommended for a ten year monitoring period.

Sites within project areas will be monitored after project completion to ensure protective measures were implemented. Under the Plan's monitoring schedule, all sites will be monitored about every ten years. This ten year cycle for nonproject land sites is both practical and attainable. This

schedule will provide the data necessary to determine where more intensive monitoring and protection strategies need to be focused. Substantive changes in the monitoring schedule will be identified in future Plan amendments or revisions as necessary. If problem areas are identified, the Plan is flexible enough to allow increasing the intensity of monitoring (i e , less than ten year cycle).

It is our recommendation that the Western Mono not only be used as resource consultants, but to be used as monitors on projects, evaluation and critiques on any and all written material pertaining or affecting the Western Mono people, their traditions or culture on the Forest.

The local Native American community can provide pertinent data necessary to accomplish these and other research goals, and each community will be asked to provide information and assistance as much as possible. The Forest recognizes the need for Native American participation whenever cultural resource evaluations occur at archaeological sites. Their participation and knowledge is often critical to project success, and this Forest will continue to emphasize and encourage participation as much as possible. Although it is not feasible to have Native Americans, or any other group, officially monitor or review all written material which might affect them, we try to contact, on an annual basis, the Native American communities and/or the representatives of various groups or tribal governments within or near the Forest to provide them with information on currently planned projects.

In addition, we direct all other agencies and companies, who apply for a permit to conduct cultural resource studies on the Forest in support of non Forest project planning, to contact these same groups or individuals about their concerns. We also have a professional staff of forest, zone and district archeologists. They can effectively review undertakings for any concerns that may affect Native Americans. Public input about a specific undertaking can also be provided during project planning. With this planning structure, the Native American community has an adequate opportunity to communicate their issues and concerns prior to approval of any undertaking that might affect them as individuals or as a group. Although we believe that an effective system is in place, communication can always be improved. We look forward to developing ways to improve communication.

110/1660

It is not widely known, but the proposal includes the Winter Trail. Keating hydroelectric project can only detract from the environmental quality of this heritage trail and hinder its restoration.

Thank you for the information about the Winter Trail. The Keating hydroelectric project has been cancelled, therefore the trail will not be affected.

110/1684

Cultural areas, like archaeological sites, should certainly be evaluated and managed as Alternative A proposes. But, that does not go far enough. They should be preserved as called for in Alternative E. Again, these two alternatives should be combined and adopted.

All archaeological and historical sites are protected until evaluations have been completed. Once evaluated, treatment can be addressed as necessary. Site preservation is typically the preferred management decision and most cultural resources within the Forest are managed in this manner.

120-HYDROELECTRIC

120/0063

It is important to incorporate the concept of need into management policy for hydroelectric development. This has been done on page 2-46 of the DEIS. It would be tragic if this yardstick was removed from the EIS, since it provides an objective tool for your agency.

Please do not mistake need for the project with need for mitigation or need for a valuable social resource. FERC continues to determine need for energy and type of energy generation facility. The Forest Service attempts to balance both if the resource to be impacted, such as a free flowing stream, can be suitably mitigated or if a need for the resource in its natural state should be preserved.

120/0238, 1413, 1358 & 0251

I would choose Alternative E over the Preferred Alternative A, regarding the proposed hydroelectric development. We all own the Forest and to let people make power off of streams that should not be touched seems ludicrous.

The National Forest System is for multipurpose management. One of the resources directed by Congress is for utilization of the flow of water and hydrostatic head for hydroelectric power consumption. This administration has been proposing that the federal government be "partners" in development of resources. Hydroelectric development is one of the ways this is being accomplished.

120/0258

A serious concern of mine is Kings and Merced Rivers, as well as the other small streams being proposed for hydroelectric projects. The projects appear to be superfluous, expensive, and emphasize developers' profit.

Both Kings and Merced Rivers are currently protected by laws passed by Congress; Kings River has been designated a Special Management Area and Merced River has been designated as a WSR. The other small streams are protected through the licensing process where the resource impacts are studied and evaluated for adequate mitigation.

The projects must be economically viable, although many major projects may have appeared to be superfluous. After mitigation requirements are known, many projects have been scaled down to more efficient sizes or have been dropped because of poor economic feasibility. Developers (and utilities) will not build without profit; the government recognizes this and allows it.

120/0464

Standard and Guidelines #157 and #158 make the assumption that the Forest would want all essential environmental studies and agreements completely finished/signed before FERC issues a license for a hydroelectric project. Preferred procedure is for the licensee and Forest Service to reach agreements and/or compromises, then include them in a Memorandum of Understanding or Special Use Permit.

This is correct. Recent court decisions have required all essential environmental studies to be completed prior to issuance of the 4e letter. The Forest does not have a choice in this procedure nor is it logical to make a decision and then study the facts. Plans and studies which would not have an effect on a decision or future mitigation is unknown. Examples of Plans which could be deferred include erosion control, waste disposal, and fire plan. Forest Service policy is no longer to use a Memorandum of Agreement, since it is a nonbinding document.

Appendices pg. 7-36 notes that water values for hydroelectric power were not included in analysis because of differences in values between individual watersheds, installed hydroelectric plant capacity and other variables. We are convinced that a re-evaluation would support increased emphasis on active water management on the Forest and recommend significant revisions to the Final Plan.

You are probably correct in assuming that most values for water would be more than \$59/acre-foot used for irrigation. This value is not calculated because the variables used in creating the value are not uniform. The figure could make some watersheds very valuable for just the water. There is a possibility that water will be our most important monetary resource in the very near future. The Forest does not do active water management. FERC and the California State Water Resource Control Board come the closest to this. Water management is demand-driven by economics and based on previous water rights.

Standards and Guidelines Sec 4 5 2.13, as written could tend to needlessly constrain development of hydro resources. PG&E will normally acquire necessary land and water rights to own, operate and maintain hydroelectric projects and associated facilities. We request wording be changed to

read, "Encourage licensee acquisition of private lands within areas withdrawn by FERC, where beneficial for project resource protection."

S&Gs now state "Encourage licensee acquisition of private lands within project boundaries withdrawn by FERC where beneficial for resource protection." It is not clear what "project resource" is to include. Since the mitigation is to be related to the project and impacts, we see no need to modify further.

Plan pg 4-6, Sec. 4.3.8, states that "when hydroelectric projects are proposed or relicensing occurs on existing developments, the Forest will coordinate with project proponents and CDFG to ensure associated fish and wildlife habitats and sensitive plant resources are maintained near current levels" Standard and Guideline #37 should be clarified by adding to the end of above statement the phrase "where adequate and improved when needed".

The S&G has been amended

Standard and Guideline #168 of the draft plan conflicts with present FERC regulations governing operation of recreation facilities and fee collections. This guideline should be revised to reflect FERC regulations #156 suggests licensees should develop or replace recreation facilities in direct proportion to size of proposed hydroelectric project based on demonstrable need during term of FERC license. This Guideline is misleading and should be reworded. The last sentence of #103 needs to be clarified. Suggest the following wording: "These structures include bridges, approaches, water diversion structures, boat ramps and other recreational development".

S&G #168 of the Draft Plan is unnecessary and has been deleted because the Regional Office of the Forest Service is creating a Memorandum of Agreement covering this topic

In place of "project size", the statement will read " ..Licensee will be responsible for development . project relieved " Since this is covered by the FERC guidelines and conflicts with the character of development proposed in this Plan, S&G #156 of the Draft Plan has been omitted.

Clarification of S&G #103 of the Draft Plan is helpful. The final S&G has been changed to read "These exceptions may include bridges, approaches, water diversion structures, boat ramps, and other recreational development."

120/0688 & 1658

Of the alternatives only one can be acceptable, Alternative E., and even that should be modified to allow development on existing facilities. The natural streams that are left should be "off limits". Our focus needs instead to be on facilities already available. At least allow the major utilities that have existing facilities and energy production experience. Alternative A appears to have been written by the developers. We urge the Forest to adopt Alternative E which would provide ample new energy to the people while, at the same time, making the role of the Forest Service more reasonable.

Alternative A was selected over Alternative E because: 1) It fits the requirements of the NEPA process by allowing various alternatives to be investigated in place of a preconceived selection; 2) It better fits the national direction for development of renewable resources; and 3) The concept of mitigation by "replacement in kind" may be impossible and would stop many hydroelectric projects. In the Horton Creek decision of an appeal of a hydroelectric project (1986), the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture stated that mitigation needs to be ". adequate, but not excessive .." The Forest Service will continue to request mitigation in kind, and attempt to fully mitigate impacts where possible, but may also allow some changes where considered to be in the public interest. See response to 121/0688

120/0767

I am writing in support of Alternative E for small stream hydroelectric projects. Allowing this type of hydroelectric development can only destroy the recreational potential of our already limited forest measures. With so much power potential available, we do not need such haphazard development. Please adopt Alternative E.

The direction for Alternative E would apply to all projects, large and small. It was not written to stop hydroelectric projects, but gives the resource some additional protection. Rather than select an alternative to stop hydroelectric development on small streams that would apply to all hydroelectric projects, it is more valuable to continue to examine the benefits of each project on a case-by-case basis. Even some projects on small streams may truly be in the public interest.

120/0818

We have concerns about the promotions of hydroelectric power projects, in general, on Forest streams. The Forest is recognizing the destructive nature of these projects and is acknowledging the current energy glut in California. We appreciate these positions and urge you to continue to evaluate proposed projects and give weight to mitigations necessary to protect wildlife, fisheries, and recreation.

FERC is the agency that reviews the need for hydroelectric power. The Forest makes no recommendation on this issue unless the project is not consistent with National Forest policy. The Forest does, however, make recommendations and requirements to mitigate project impacts upon wildlife, fisheries, and recreation and will continue to do so with the Preferred Alternative. The Forest Service will make a recommendation to FERC that a project is or is not in the public interest.

120/1158

A. The Forest Service's role in the FERC hydroelectric licensing should be that of a party to the proceedings. B. The Forest Service should also participate as a party to State Water Rights Board hearings concerning projects on National Forest lands. C. How the Regional Forester can negotiate with a federal power project applicant to trade public campgrounds for an administrative office building is beyond comprehension. By copy of this document, demand is made upon the Secretary of Agriculture to initiate an investigation of the validity of those matters and to determine if federal appropriate procedures or laws have been violated, and if so, to initiate disciplinary action.

A. The Forest Service's role in the FERC hydroelectric licensing is to. 1) Make recommendations; 2) Submit binding conditions; and 3) Determine if the project has significant effects. The role of the Forest Service is somewhat less than clear. Currently a Memorandum of Agreement is being negotiated with FERC to clarify and strengthen these roles, but the Forest Service will probably never be the lead agency, unless the Federal Power Act is modified. This issue is one of national scope and is beyond the ability of this Forest or this Region to resolve.

B. The Forest Service does not see the need for participation in State Water Rights hearings nor has the State requested or even indicated they wished the Forest Service to appear, but staff has attended some water rights hearings for information. FERC license holders have the ability to acquire water rights by eminent domain, so that the right to obtain water rights are not at issue. It makes sense for all agencies to cooperate in one proceeding, but the issues of states' rights versus federal rights has made state agencies somewhat reluctant to push this. FERC maintains that it is the dominant agency according to its perceived role in the Federal Power Act, and does not wish to share its authority.

C. The Regional Forester has not negotiated with a federal power project applicant to trade a campground for an administrative site nor do Forest Service policies allow this to occur.

120/1178

Hydroelectric proponents should provide a complete EIS and pay all costs. All new and relicensing hydroelectric projects must provide benefits to the forest and full mitigation for any environmental damage.

At present all hydroelectric project developers needing an EIS have the documents written by FERC, but they are not charged fees. Changing this system is beyond the scope of this document and is not under the control of the Forest Service.

All hydroelectric projects must mitigate environmental damage, but only to the degree that can be considered "reasonable." Full mitigation is difficult to assess and may be impossible to attain and may not necessarily be in the public interest. The Forest Service finds it more reasonable to require mitigation on a case-by-case basis with mitigation standards as you have suggested.

120/1271, 0992, 0181 & 1270

Please request FERC to delay acting on the Keating Project until Congress acts on the proposed WSR bills.

Congress did act on the WSR bill, and in December of 1987, FERC dismissed the license application.

120/1383

Fees for hydroelectric projects should be increased substantially.

The Forest Service concurs. Fees should be tied to the market value of the energy generated, not based upon a percentage of land value. The Forest Service has urged FERC to increase the fees. Arguments against increasing fees are that utilities will pass it on to the rate payers, and they perform a valuable public service by creating low cost energy. Presently only one federal agency may charge fees for use, and since FERC is the licensing agency, they also levy and collect the fees.

120/1390

Appendices pg 7-217 under FERC application No. 6593, the applicant was the Merced (not Madera) Irrigation District. Subsequent to the original application, the proposed capacity was changed from 70 MW to 80 MW

These changes have been made

120/1434

The Standard and Guidelines relating to hydroelectric development should specifically identify those that also apply to small hydroelectric development, especially #'s 157 and 161. Also, keep in line with your plan of 10 to 15 year basis and do not allow automatic or long term 30-year leases for a small hydro development

The Forest Service does not differentiate by size of hydroelectric projects. All guidelines apply equally. Small hydroelectric projects are not necessarily more environmentally sound.

120/1461

Wild rivers are limited in number and there are many alternatives for energy generation other than hydroelectric plants

Hydroelectric projects are an acceptable use of National Forest System lands. Rivers of great social value are protected by the WSR designation. Other streams with proposals for development are evaluated at the time of application. The project is then weighed against the social benefits of the stream before a decision being made.

120/1520

Under Escondido Mutual Water Company v. La Jolla Bands of Mission Indians, any conditions proposed by the Forest Service to FERC, with respect to protection of natural resources in hydro licensing proceedings, will be binding on FERC. The Plan should include a discussion of the responsibility mandated by "La Jolla," identify cases in which adequate instream flows have not been provided, and set forth objectives for correcting past errors.

A discussion of the Escondido Case is not included because it covers a national issue and national direction rather than Forest direction. Another case or proposed Memorandum of Agreement by the Washington Office could modify this direction. The Forest will continue to follow federal direction in licensing procedures. S&Gs #36 & #37 in the Draft Plan are an attempt to provide Forest direction in the same areas.

120/1528

I heartily agree with the Energy Issue taken up on pg. 2-5 of the Plan, but feel this direction should apply to all National Forest lands, including wildlife habitat and recreation opportunity areas. I find it ludicrous for a proponent to suggest that replacing free-flowing stream with a fluctuating body of flat water will provide increased recreation opportunities.

The Forest Service attempts to mitigate lost resources with like and in kind resources where possible. However, it is not possible in all cases. The example of changing free-flowing streams to flat water bodies usually accommodates more recreational users but changes the experience and type of recreation. If the project is considered for the greatest public benefit in the long term, this substitution may be acceptable.

120/1601

The Plan and DEIS, as formulated, assumed the construction of the Dinkey Creek Project. Kings River Conservation District has abandoned its plans for this Project and the Plan and EIS should be modified to reflect this major change in circumstances. The EIS should address the cumulative impacts of all past, present, and foreseeable hydroelectric development.

The Plan and EIS will reflect abandonment of the Dinkey Creek Project. The EIS addresses cumulative impacts of all development on the Forest by evaluating all effects through existing and proposed monitoring. The term cumulative impacts applies to all impacts. They are reviewed and studied in relation to each other. Impacts from one source, such as hydroelectric, may not be possible to isolate for purposes of monitoring.

120/1669

In references to hydroelectric development both in the Plan (pg. 4-9, 4-35) and DEIS (pg. 4-90), there is an absence of any overall vision of the ultimate extent of hydroelectric development. The statement on page 3-106 (DEIS) that social and environmental conditions allow "an infinite number of hydroelectric developments to exist" is careless and unfounded. The Forest has little or no control over the future of hydroelectric development. If this is the case, it should be so stated.

You are correct that there is an absence of ultimate extent of hydroelectric development. Development is dependent on many factors over which the Forest Service has little or no control. Among these factors are price of oil, public acceptance of hydroelectric power, social needs, cost of mitigation, new technology in construction, and FERC rules and regulations. The Forest Service, since it is not the lead agency for licensing of hydroelectric projects, will not attempt to establish an upper limit. The economic viability of projects within the constraints of the National Forest System will be the limiting factor.

The statement, "social and environmental conditions allow an infinite number of hydroelectric projects to exist," was intended to reflect that many variations of projects could still occur on the Forest but would depend on many factors. The wording has been changed.

120/1684

I would suggest the management proposals in Alternative E be used as a preamble to the management objectives in Alternative A. Both should be combined and adopted.

Alternative A was selected because it is consistent with the intentions of the Forest Service to manage hydroelectric development on a case by case basis. Alternative E did not recognize that, in certain cases, it may be desirable to allow change in emphasis for a particular source.

120/1777

We support the Alternative E approach to hydroelectric power development. We believe that the Forest Service should closely monitor existing licenses for compliance with streamflow requirement conditions in their license.

See response to 120/0767 regarding Alternative E.

FERC is responsible for licensees' compliance with flow regulations. If the Forest Service observed an infraction of the flows, FERC would be informed and disciplinary action probably would be taken. Any flow requirements not met by the licensee must be explained in writing by the licensee.

to FERC as soon as possible, stating the reason and when compliance will be met. We are not aware of any compliance problems by the licensees with flow requirements nor have any been reported We do not presently inspect flows

120/1807

I think proposed hydroelectric development on North Fork San Joaquin River within Ansel Adams Wilderness is inconsistent with the management of the Wilderness Act.

It is inconsistent, but it was one of the compromises made by Congress to make an acceptable Wilderness proposal. Congress may choose to close this inconsistency by granting a WSR designation to North Fork San Joaquin River This would prevent water from diversion and would preclude hydroelectric development.

121-SMALL HYDROELECTRIC

121/0261

Every time the Forest Service authorizes a (small hydroelectric) project, it is implicated in the nurturing of parasitic appendages to the national economy, one that enjoys immunity from the forces of competition in a free enterprise system. I am hopeful that it will be evident to you that the implementation of any of the alternatives listed in your plan for hydroelectric development other than Alternative E would be a repudiation of your responsibility to protect the public interest

See response to 120/0767 regarding Alternative E

Your comment about "immunity from competition" is partially correct. This immunity is a national decision to foster cheap energy development for the nation. It is the same immunity enjoyed by major utilities. This is a national direction established by Congress and is not subject to Forest scrutiny.

121/0688

After studying the references of the proposed Plan, we see that unlimited small hydroelectric development is in the Plan, regardless of the fact that the public would lose economically, environmentally, recreationally, culturally, and aesthetically. The only real benefit would be to developers through subsidies, purchases, purchase contracts by major utilities and tax incentives. Numerous small projects built by inexperienced developers mean a myriad of problems the Forest Service wouldn't be able to control.

Alternative A does not imply unlimited small hydroelectric development any more than it implies unlimited large project development Conditions and required mitigation stated in the LMP guidelines will not allow this to occur. Congress has stated by the passage of the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 that renewable resources through incentives are desirable. The State of California also encourages this concept with incentives. The Forest Service recognizes hydroelectric power as a legitimate use of National Forest land The Forest is aware that some developers are less skilled than others, but it has to consider the applications, as proposed

According to this Plan, once the FONSI has been declared by FERC, the only action required of the Forest Service is to approve the project under the catch-all term used in Alternative A (full mitigation, within reason). Full mitigation, within reason means that after everything the developer can be convinced to mitigate has been done, what adverse conditions left over will have to be accepted by the public. Developers should have the FERC/State Water Rights permit before Special Use Permits (SUP)

The Forest Service will have submitted the 4e letter with its own decision notice and Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) prior to FERC making their finding of impact. The 4e letter will have the Forest Service requirements for reasonable mitigation Mitigation requirements, determined to be in excess of "reasonable," can be protested by the developer, and, if FERC agrees that the mitigation requirements are unreasonable, FERC can change the requirements

FERC requires the developer to obtain the water rights from the State Water Resource Control board within five years of the license. This is not a problem because the FERC license also conveys the power of eminent domain to obtain land and water rights. The time for issuance of the SUP is stated in the license. If it was not contained in the license FERC could not consider issuance of the SUP as a requirement

It is a proven fact that additional energy from our area will not be needed until the year 2000 and could be provided by upgrading existing facilities. Is it really worth the cost to the public? Aesthetic beauty, cultural resources to Native Americans, and recreation values are not renewable - a senseless loss to future generations.

The Forest Service does not evaluate need for the project. In the case of licensed projects, FERC determines the need for issuance of the license and CPUC determines the standard contracts and rates. If no need or desire for the projects exists, it is the CPUC's role to disallow the rate payers to be burdened with unnecessary costs.

Besides the need for energy, the source of the energy generated is a consideration. Because of air quality standards, many fossil fuel plants, which are also expensive to operate, could have their operations. Both issues are resolved by other agencies acting within their authority for the public benefit and are not within the scope of the LMP

121/1234

The Preferred Alternative of the DEIS, referring to hydroelectric development, states that "no site is off limits to development " How can this be when on several occasions there have been laws passed prohibiting this type of thinking The Energy Security Act (Public Law 96-294) states that small hydroelectrics could be placed on existing dams and reservoirs and exempts virginal streams. Assembly Bill 951 states that small power production facilities should be placed on existing dams, diversions, and canals These bills protect instream uses for recreation, aesthetic value, and fish and wildlife preservation On September 21, 1983 (Sierra Star) Zane Smith agreed with Richard Stauber's decision that cumulative impacts on our pristine streams needs to be assessed. If then, why not now?

The Energy Security Bill does not disallow hydroelectric development on virginal streams; it only limits the benefits and types of licensing that are proposed. This is presumably also the case with AB 951. These streams are open for the regular hydroelectric licensing process. SB 951 is not binding on federal projects but is for California State Water Resource Control Board. It should be pointed out that "avoided cost" payments are authorized by the CPUC so, in effect, the state is still allowing alternate energy forms. The intent of legislation is to limit the impacts, not necessarily stop hydroelectric development.

Cumulative effects were studied in the San Joaquin River drainage area, where the small hydroelectric projects were proposed in 1983, in "Final Environmental Analysis of Small-scale Hydroelectric Development in Selected Watersheds in the Upper San Joaquin River Basin, California," (1985).

I would like to see the map of Alternative E take precedence over map Alternative A on the issue of small hydroelectrics. Our forestry department, in my opinion, is more knowledgeable about our forests than are the five domineering FERCS (the Commissioners)

See response to 120/0688 regarding Alternative E

121/1843 & 0290

We oppose virtually all small hydroelectric projects on natural flowing streams They are not economically feasible, and dewatering of streams will impact vegetation and wildlife, and in Madera County, a sensitive, endemic plant species. In addition, roads and transmission lines needed for the

small hydro construction will add further disruption to the forest ecosystem for little or no positive gain to the general public, only to the developer.

Even large hydroelectric projects become cost effective by diverting small streams. Stopping all diversion of small streams would stop all hydroelectric projects. Hydroelectric projects are an acceptable use of national forest lands. The Forest Service will accept some change in resources, if it is of acceptable public benefit. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

There will be protection in the form of an interagency agreement between the U S Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service, outlining protection for the endemic plant. The plant will be protected prior to the implementation of hydroelectric projects. Roads and transmission lines will be mitigated according to the guidelines developed in the LMP. Also see response to 121/0668.

121/1856

It says in the Plan that there are 3000 potential small hydroelectric project sites and no site is off limits.

We are unaware of where that figure originated and are unable to find it in the Plan. You may have inferred that from the phrase, "infinite number of variations," which has been changed. See response to 120/1669

121/1857 & 1667

There is ample opportunity to develop hydroelectric power at existing sites. We are endorsing the retrofit of Lake Edison, the so-called Vermillion Dam retrofit. We have an open mind as far as raising Mammoth Pool, as long as it is appropriately mitigated, and we do support, conceptually, Edison's plan to increase the Big Creek Projects by 500 megawatts, which is much more energy than these small projects will generate

Thank you for your comment. The proposal for raising Mammoth Pool has been dropped for the time being.

123-NEW HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS

123/1201, 0978 & 0219

I hope you will recommend against, and do your best to halt construction of, superfluous dams threatening free-flowing rivers, such as the Granite-Graveyard and Jackass-Chiquito Projects and El Portal Dam.

The El Portal Project dam is no longer a proposed project in any form. The proposed site has been designated as a Wild/Scenic River.

The Granite-Graveyard Project has been grandfathered into the creation of Ansel Adams Wilderness and could still be built, if North Fork Kings River is not designated as a Wild/Scenic River. The Forest Service will not participate in any planning on this project until Congress has had time to act on the designation. If it is designated, the project probably would not have sufficient water to be economical.

Configurations of the Jackass-Chiquito Projects could occur without import of water from North Fork Kings River.

The Forest Service will complete a study of the application prior to making a decision, as it currently does for all hydroelectric power projects.

123/1647

The following comments are directed at the approximately five-mile section of Merced River immediately below Yosemite Park boundary.

Although Sec. 3 17 of the Plan acknowledges the ideal terrain and climatic conditions for

hydroelectric development, this important section is completely ignored in sec. 4.2 - Forestwide Goals and Objectives - whereas other objectives (especially #'s 8 & 12) and their social benefits (sec. 4.3.2) are being encouraged. This becomes even harder to understand in light of sec 4.3.7 which confirms that "limited hydroelectric development could take place on Recreational-designated river segments. . ." Denial of any license under Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Act...does not pertain to the El Portal Project.

Since this comment was written, this segment has been designated a Wild and Scenic River with a classification of Recreational. FERC has denied the license because of WSR status. The Forest Service will make decisions for hydroelectric projects on a case-by-case basis.

123/1820

In order to preserve the integrity of any recommendation you make, I also urge you to delay the approval of any pending dam projects on these rivers until Congress has had an opportunity to act on your recommendations. Congressional action could be undermined by a FERC licensing decision prior to that action.

The Forest Service will not consider the licensing of a hydroelectric project on a river nominated for WSR status until Congress acts on the nomination.

124-NEW DAM

124/0071

I oppose dams and power plants in the Forest and Ansel Adams Wilderness

Any dam proposed in Ansel Adams Wilderness has to have the approval of Congress. Further public opinion would be solicited

Dams and power plants are an acceptable use of National Forest System lands unless there are restrictions, such as wilderness. Many dams and powerhouses currently exist. New proposals will be considered by the Forest Service on a case-by-case basis.

124/0970

Potential benefits of power and water dams on any Forest rivers are far outweighed by the costs (financial and otherwise) involved

Hydroelectric projects are an acceptable use of National Forest system land, as are other uses. Each project will be studied on a case-by-case basis to determine if benefits are greater than costs in resource terms

124/1127

Dinkey Creek is a special area that should be protected from a major dam project.

The LMP is not proposing Dinkey Creek as an area set aside for special protection. Currently, no hydroelectric projects are proposed for the area. It is safe to assume, if economic conditions raise the cost of energy, a project may look attractive. Many sites on the Forest have had projects proposed, but after the initial study, were not pursued. We have no direction to protect all possible sites. Hydroelectric power is an acceptable use of the Forest. Unless an area is protected for a special purpose, for example, Wild and Scenic River status, each application and proposal is studied on a case-by-case basis.

124/1305

We have a special interest in North Fork San Joaquin River. We were horrified last summer to learn of the proposed dam in that area, which would destroy it.

See response to 123/1201 concerning the Granite-Graveyard and Jackass Chiquito Projects.

124/1311

It is my understanding that there are several proposed dam sites on Merced and San Joaquin Rivers. Your recommendations can be a huge help in protecting our rivers

See response to 123/1201

124/1562 & 1131

I oppose the proposed Rodgers Crossing Dam

Rogers Crossing Dam has been eliminated by the establishment of the Kings River Special Management Area, which was created by Congress in 1987

130-LANDS

130/0464

We are concerned with land use allocations that may impact operations of existing facilities. We ask that valid existing rights be recognized when assigning land use prescriptions. Reasonable access for operation and maintenance of PG&E's electric facilities within the Forest must be maintained. New access restrictions on the Forest must carefully consider the burden placed on utility operations

Reasonable access for operation and maintenance of electrical facilities will be maintained.

130/0464

We are concerned that management direction in the Plan may limit PG&E's options for managing company-owned lands in the future. We ask that consideration be given to PG&E's forest management practices in areas adjacent to PG&E lands

The Forest does not presume to dictate land management practices upon any nonfederal owner. The Forest is concerned only with the extent, if any, of adverse effects on adjacent Forest lands from nonfederal land management.

130/1213

Under Future Conditions, Plan sec 4.3 15, we think that acquiring the 20 acres of Cal Tech land to complete Nelder Grove should be high on the list of priorities.

If this land was voluntarily available the Forest would seriously consider acquisition.

130/1658

With regard to lands, I support Alternative A.

Thank you for your support

130/1681

I agree with Standard and Guideline #152 to discourage, in fact prohibit, conversion of prime farmland, forest range, and wet lands for other uses.

Thank you for your support

131-ADJUSTMENTS/EXCHANGES

131/1415

In sec 2 7.12 of the DEIS, it is stated that all alternatives (except Alternative B) will emphasize the acquisition of "nonfederal holdings" and "nonfederal lands". I see this wording as a threat to my legitimate interests, and, therefore I support the wording for Alternative B given in Sec. 2.6.2 14 of the DEIS. I suggest the "emphasis on acquisition" wording could promote abusive treatment of inholders. I propose the wording be altered to emphasize a cooperative approach to mutual problems by the Forest Service and inholders

The Forest recognizes and respects the legitimate property rights of inholders. However, acquisition of suitable inholding from a willing seller is a priority management objective.

131/1684

I fully support the concept of land exchanges, for administrative and resource management purposes. In general, I support Alternative A with the exception of hydroelectric facilities, which would have to be very closely examined on a case-by-case basis. Perhaps, Alternative E might be a more conservative approach

Thank you for your support. The theme of Alternative A is somewhat more commodity-oriented than Alternative E. The hydroelectric portion of A best fits the overall theme. However, proposed hydroelectric development would be closely examined on a case-by-case basis as you recommend

140-HUNTINGTON LAKE

140/0165

I don't like Standard and Guideline #266 I also don't think #277 is a good idea because, small boats should be able to launch at the same facility as large boats Why spend money on building a whole new facility

This issue will be addressed during the management (implementation) planning phases of Huntington Lake, scheduled to be done in 1991.

140/0255

I have read with particular interest from the Plan pp 4-42 to 44. These items are constructive and appear to be in the best interests of all users of the lake and the surrounding area.

Thank you for your support

140/1391

The Huntington Lake Association is opposed to the recommendation of developing a bicycle/foot path around the lake We request its immediate deletion. It is inconsistent with any philosophy or concept of maintaining the forest in its natural state

The Huntington Lake basin is not in a "forested natural state." The area is similar to an urban environment where mechanical equipment is part of the experience. Pathways will give more people the opportunity to experience the Huntington Lake Basin.

140/1713

To water ski, you need to go at least 35 mph to start off. Larger people need to go faster to get up and going What you should do is let water skiers go 40 miles to start out, and then stay under 35 miles per hour. I am in agreement with Standard and Guideline #259.

A 40 mph speed to allow larger people to get up faster is good However, once a skier is up and going, dropping to 35 mph would be very difficult to monitor or enforce.

141-CONCESSIONAIRES

141/1669

The Huntington Lake AA needs to obtain bear-proof trash and garbage collection facilities in the next two years.

The Pineridge District is working with the trash removal companies to provide a bear-proof container, which is patterned after a Park Service design.

141/1755

The Huntington Lake Resort Marina presently has a boat launching facility. However, it is closed to public use. The SUP needs to be modified to permit public use.

Currently, the public has the opportunity to launch boats at Huntington Lake Resort Marina. Signs in the area need to be improved so the public will be made aware that public launching is available. S&G #277 of the DEIS addresses the need for additional public launching/parking. Somewhere at the west end of the lake, a facility will be provided.

The Plan addresses each of the commercial permittees with respect to allowed expansion, except Sierra Summit. To be fair, Sierra Summit should have its allowed expansion limits specified in this Plan. Allowing the Summit to install 20 trailers, at 4 to 5 persons each, has had major impact on the PAOT level.

Past managers of the Huntington Lake area indicated the need for some permittee expansion. Existing permittees will be allowed to expand in response to public demands within existing recreation development and experience levels.

142-CAMPGROUNDS

142/0015

We request that the Huntington Lake Basin overnight accommodations quota be increased by at least 1,000 over the 7,300, not only to help insure the success of Sierra Summit Ski Area, but to maintain and improve the recreational opportunities therein, summer and winter.

The expansion of overnight PAOTs in the Huntington Lake Basin will be limited to what has been approved by existing project EAs. The Huntington Lake Recreation Area Composite Plan, which will be completed by 1993, will address future expansion.

142/1755

Every campground has vacancies except for July 4th and Labor Day weekends. Extending the present camping limit of 14 days to 21 days or longer, except over these 2 weekends, would permit people to utilize the forest to its fullest and most of all, increase the CG income. All the CGs need major improvements and therefore should be upgraded to the highest level that available funds permit.

Increasing the camping limit to 21 days except during July 4th and Labor Day weekends is a good idea. Most Forest Service facilities within the Huntington Lake basin are scheduled for rehabilitation over the next five years. They will be rehabilitated as funds are appropriated by Congress. This idea will be considered on a site-by-site basis.

144-BOATING

144/1755

There is a need for additional boat slips on Huntington Lake. Many cabin owners do not have slips within their tract dock systems. Expansion of their docks is limited by Standard and Guideline #279. Therefore, these cabin owners need slips for the entire summer and not for short term use as limited by this item. The words "short term use" should be deleted from this item in order to provide for the required additional slips

The purpose of the increased commercial boat slips for short term use is to make them available to the public whose stay is limited to 14 days.

146-RECREATIONAL RESIDENCES

146/0051

Draft Plan S&G #276 - Regarding the removal of a guest cabin on Lot 89 in Huckleberry Tract at Huntington. We are the owners of that cabin, and the permittee on Lot 39. The reason for removing the cabin was to provide room for the proposed path mentioned earlier in Standard and Guideline #282. Since the path is not to be built at that location, there seems to be no reason to remove the cabin. We respectfully request that #276 be excluded from the Plan

The policy to remove the guest house remains the same because, whether the path goes directly through or in the vicinity of the guest house, the facility will affect the experience of users.

146/0255

We have sensed the emergence of an adversary attitude on the part of the Forest Service toward cabin owners. One of the concerns held by Forest Service personnel was the poor utilization record of some cabins in our Huntington area. My purpose here is to document our 1986 usage and to generalize that we have introduced a very large number of families and friends to the High Sierra in our 40 years, - almost continuous use from June 1 to September 29, 1986 with 23 people involved.

Thank you for this information. It needs to be sent to the Pineridge Ranger District and included in public input to the Huntington Lake Basin plan, to be completed by 1993.

146/1391

Huntington Lake permittees are requesting a provision in the Plan to provide for the opportunity to acquire fee title to the lots upon which their cabins are located. It is assumed that there exists the legal means in the event and to the extent that this may be possible. The request would be for the Plan to also recommend that a legal method of doing so be established.

The political implications of this type of recommendation would be too controversial for the Plan to address. This type of action would be analyzed in a EIS similar to the Highway 88 Plan prepared for the El Dorado National Forest.

146/1755

Paragraph A concerning snowplowing states that roads must be constructed to a standard that allows snowplowing, while paragraph B states that certain existing roads may be plowed. We believe the snowplowing policy should be the same on all permittee roads in order to be fair and not be discriminative to the cabin owners. Paragraph C states that the Huntington Lake Road can not be plowed between January 5th and the weekend before Easter.

The Plan allows snowplowing on roads where those activities have occurred in the past. The Plan does allow for snowplowing of additional permittee roads, if those roads are constructed to standards for snowplowing.

150-LAW ENFORCEMENT

150/0162 & 1213

I think there should be more security in the Forest. The destruction from arson and vandalism happens so quickly and is so devastating. It would take years to restore damage that took only minutes. I think criminal and civil cases about unauthorized occupancy should be resolved immediately. Standard and Guideline 147 will help.

Thank you for your support. The Preferred Alternative includes an increase in law enforcement efforts in all functional areas, not just arson.

150/0993

Forest and Fresno/Madera County law enforcement needs to be addressed. How will the Forest be able to look after its proprietary rights and responsibilities? What role will the counties and other agencies be expected to fulfill? What will be the monetary and personnel costs? Is there a need for additional regulations?

The Plan calls for increased cooperation with county officers in order to fulfill law enforcement efforts in the Forest.

150/1669

Standard and Guidelines 214 should be for all Forest resources and regulations, not just fire.

Law enforcement is categorized under Protection and is administered by Fire Management. The S&Gs are for all functional areas, not just fire.

160-MINERALS/MINING

160/0133

I am opposed to mining in the Forest. The minerals and the land should be left as they are. If mining must take place, it should be done out of sight of the visitors because it ruins the natural beauty of the Forest.

Miners have a statutory right to locate claims and mine on public lands opened to mining under the 1872 Mining Law, as amended. The Forest Service attempts to minimize the impact through an approved Plan of Operation and appropriate reclamation. Minerals are located in areas identified by certain rock types and land forms. Therefore, it is impossible to locate mines other than where the minerals are located.

160/0171

I don't think you should require lease conditions to be consistent with requirements for operations on locatable claims, as per Guideline #133.

Legitimate miners have a statutory right under the 1872 Mining Law as amended. A lease is considered an authorized privilege and could have different conditions. We have changed the wording of the S&G pertaining to lease conditions.

160/0191

We find no mention of mineral value or potential for sanbornite in the Plan either for Rush Creek or Big Creek deposits in Section 27, T.11N, R.25E, Mount Diablo B&M. This is a significant mineral resource and not given much attention in your Plan. We worry how the Plan may limit exploration and production activities for barium silicate in Rush Creek and Big Creek areas.

Since mineral potential and activity is not a major activity or a critical issue or concern, the Forest did not provide a detailed discussion. See response to 160/0133.

160/0296

Mining should be encouraged along with controls to prevent razing the land

Legitimate mining under appropriate federal laws will continue along with emphasis on restoration of mining sites

160/0349

I am opposed to the planned reduction of mineral operations. At a time when we face the loss of strategic mineral sources from South Africa and other countries, there is no justification for the Forest Service to reduce and discourage exploration and mining in public lands

The expected reduction of mineral operations is based on continued low prices for minerals and high production costs, along with additional congressional withdrawals from mineral entry. Congress could cancel some or all withdrawals. The Forest Service does not discourage legitimate exploration and mining on public lands open to mining.

160/1158

Administrative withdrawals that restrict the philosophy of the Mining Law of 1872 are in error and against the national interest. Whatever we do to enhance our aesthetics, we must subordinate this view to the need of continued encouragement of private enterprise to produce from our public land resources the minerals research development for their use, to provide for the nation's development and defense

Withdrawals exist to protect special areas or government-improved property. Through a review of the withdrawals, the Forest has eliminated those that are no longer needed. The Forest appreciates your comment and position, but believe some withdrawals are essential. The Forest cannot change withdrawals created by Congress.

160/1213 & 1418

DEIS Fig 3.04, Mineral Potential, shows T.6S, R.22E. Sections 5,6,7, and 8 with mineral potential. Nelder Grove was withdrawn from mineral entry. I hope that will never be changed. The damage from previous mining claims has not been corrected yet. Withdraw sensitive areas from future mining claims. Eliminate mining claims that are legally deficient, improperly recorded per 1976 FMPA, or those that have failed to do regional assessment work.

Sensitive areas, such as Nelder Grove, have been withdrawn from mineral entry, and additional ones can be withdrawn, as they are identified. Eliminating illegal mining claims is an ongoing activity, based on priorities. The BLM is the final authority on declaring claims null and void.

160/1362

Alternatives F, H, and I are "resource mining" alternatives that should be dropped from consideration

Thank you for your comment. Alternatives F and I have been dropped from consideration while Alternative H has been retained to assure the display of a "reasonable range of alternatives".

160/1393

It is time to remove the grandfather clause for mineral rights in the Forest. Examples such as the mining claims in the Kaiser Wilderness and the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness are nothing more than summer homes. They develop roads for a select few into wild areas that are publicly owned.

Claims in these areas are being studied for their validity. If they are declared invalid by the BLM, the areas will be restored. The homes are outside the wilderness in these cases. If the claims are valid, the right to the claimant will continue. However, any surface occupancy would have to be reasonably incidental and necessary to mining as detailed in a plan of operation.

160/1669

The Forest should not actively support mineral and energy resource development, but should be responsive to requests for development.

The wording in the EIS and Plan has been changed to "be responsive to requests for orderly exploration and development.. .."

160/1681

Standard and Guidelines #'s 136 & 138 are excellent adjuncts to the Plan.

Thank you for your support.

160/1684 & 1658

I have no problem with the overall concept of mining and mineral extraction on our Forest. I'm not sure we need more roads in presently uproaded areas, which, in theory, will open more lands to mineral exploration and development. In general, I would support the management proposal in Alternative E over A, or any other alternative.

The additional roads would probably be a result of entry for other resource management purposes, unless a significant mineral deposit is discovered. With minerals, the Forest Service is reactive, as the 1872 Mining Law gives a statutory right to explore, locate, and mine on federal land open to mining.

160/1806

The Plan is pro-mineral development. There should be NO water degradation at all. Tailing should be tightly controlled, to the point of being replaced and recovered with saved topsoil. Mining is absolutely antithetical to wilderness and should not be allowed. Existing operations should be phased out as soon as possible. No vehicles should ever be allowed in wilderness. The monitoring is grossly deficient.

Miners have a statutory right to locate claims and mine on open public lands under the 1872 Mining Law, as amended. The Forest Service attempts to minimize the impact through an approved Plan of Operation, which is agreed to by the Forest Service and miner. The operating plan includes ways to minimize surface disturbance and appropriate reclamation. The Wilderness Act allowed staking for mining claims until December 31, 1983. Valid claims, as of that day, are allowed to remain and operate.

Moderate precision/validity is unacceptable. A single implementation review per year is likely to be insufficient on many districts. A review of EAs and plans of operation should include a ranking of potential impacts, leading to immediate recognition of plans that have potential for substantial impacts and therefore must be more closely monitored.

The monitoring item refers to the responsibility of the Forest's Land Officer. District personnel will be making more reviews. Those having greater potential for impacts will be closely monitored.

160/1841

Mineral exploration is prohibited or severely restricted in the wilderness or proposed wilderness areas. These restrictions have severely dampened the harvest of many of these resources.

Congress determines how wilderness areas should be used and what restrictions apply.

161-GENERAL FOREST AREAS

161/1669

Standard and Guideline #125 should be accomplished in all areas, whether in the Wilderness or not. You should explain the significance of the date 1/1/84.

Wilderness areas were withdrawn from mineral entry on 1/1/84. No new claims can be filed after 12/31/83. Validity on claims outside wilderness are determined on an as-needed basis. There are so many claims that administrative resources are not available to conduct validity reviews.

170-PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

170/0060

The total budget required by Alternative A is almost 20% above the Base Year 1982 level. That does not appear to be realistic in view of the efforts to reduce the Federal deficit. Since the Forest Service has historically been more emphatic upon meeting commodity goals than the amenity values, it is a foregone conclusion that the Plan implementation will result in serious reductions in amenity benefits.

Using the Regional Planning Guide, the Forest was directed to follow certain criteria to develop our range of alternatives irrespective of how unrealistic they may seem. The total budgets required for each alternative were developed during this planning process which would assist in the implementation of each alternative. In developing the range of alternatives, budgets were not to be used as constraints. If proposed activities were reasonable and needed for protection of resources, then we were instructed to use them.

We recognize that the Forest Service has historically emphasized meeting commodity goals rather than amenity values, however, under the current planning process the Forest is directed to equalize the value of all resources (i.e.) commodity and amenity values. We believe that alternative A gives the public the best blend of these values.

170/0349

Page 1-2 of the plan states "forest plan implementation process is subject to valid existing rights." I can support that statement and hope that the supervisor will live up to it.

Implementation of the LMP will not supersede valid existing rights of an "inholder". Owners of nonfederal lands within a National Forest have a statutory right-of-access pursuant to Section 1323 (a) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Although ANILCA provides all inholders a right-of-access, it is not unqualified. The access granted will be "as the Secretary deems adequate to secure the owner the reasonable use and enjoyment therefore."

171-MONITORING

171/0814

The Fresno County Farm Bureau support the development of a rangeland resource monitoring program which includes measurements of range condition and trend.

The monitoring section of the Forest Plan will include provisions for continued measurement and re-measurement of range condition and trend.

171/1002

How will the considerable monitoring expense be budgeted and appropriated?

Monitoring the implementation of the Forest Plan will come from a variety of funds appropriated from Congress. The monitoring of a particular function will be paid for by funds distributed to the function.

171/1134

Plan does not adequately provide for monitoring water quality and prevention of such effects.

The Forest has a plan for monitoring water quality by checking the effectiveness and implementation of BMP. Baseline monitoring has been done in the past, but will be restricted to specific project areas where water quality is of concern.

171/1533

Moderately accurate results make it rather difficult to evaluate whether or not a decline is indeed significant. Further, nowhere is revealed what is considered a significant decline. By the time a decline is determined to be significant, it may well be too late for the recovery of the sensitive species in the affected stream and that part of the population may be lost.

Monitoring should show trends. There must be caution to ensure that normal fluctuations don't force a required plan modification. For example, trout population changes dramatically even in wilderness because of annual stream flow fluctuations, fishing pressure, temperature etc. Monitoring must allow for the fluctuations yet at the same time reflect changes brought about by management. We feel the monitoring proposed in the Final Plan will meet the degree of sensitivity.

171/1669

The monitoring program described here is very good. However, it is lacking in detail. Will this work in fact take place? The discussion of validity and precision is very poor and needs to be completely redone. The monitoring discussion should include precision and accuracy. The definition of a sampling period needs to be clarified for the reader.

As funding becomes available, the Forest will coordinate its monitoring program with PSW on the specifics needed for each species. The details you are requesting will be included in the species monitoring plans.

171/1806

I suspect that the programs to suffer will be baseline data collection, research and monitoring, since rampant road building has already been sapping funds from long overdue essential research. This baseline data is essential before altering the environment. A "moderate monitoring program" sounds quite inadequate, and the shelterwood monitoring of "locations and base conditions after harvest" is reprehensible--base conditions no longer exist after harvest.

Please refer to Chapter 5 in the Final Plan which outlines our monitoring program. We agree that baseline data is important to successful monitoring. As an example, the Forest has already begun planning a monitoring scheme, which includes baseline data gathering, for riparian areas, oak woodlands, oldgrowth and meadowedges.

172-BUDGET CONSTRAINTS

172/0387

Whether the goals and objectives are realized will primarily depend on Federal budgetary considerations that are out of your hands.

See response to 172/1787.

172/0545

How can we spend 1.5 million dollars of the taxpayers' money on research when the money could be used for jobs, education, roads and senior citizens.

In 1987, the Forest Service was directed by Congress under the Fiscal Year 1987 Appropriation Act to conduct inventories, monitoring, and research for a period of five years on the suitability of various forest types to provide spotted owl habitat.

172/1002

The documents should display a plan which would fully implement selected alternatives. We note that all the alternatives but one, require increased budget as compared with the base year.

See response to 172/1787.

The Plan should analyze the potential effects of budget shortfalls. The analysis should provide: a clear description of the budget cuts between program elements. The impact of budget reductions on PNV, cashflow, employment opportunities and any changes in land allocations resource programs. Appropriate analysis or varying levels of budget shortfalls say 80%, 60% and 40%. This analysis should be made for each alternative.

See response to 172/1787.

172/1046

The budget needs to be increased, volunteers should be used extensively. I do not think the taxpayers should subsidize the lumber industry.

We agree with the value of volunteers to the Forest. This program will continue to be utilized. The implementation of the Plan will not lead to subsidizing the timber industry.

172/1266

The Forest Plan with the many good things it has in it cannot possibly be carried out with the budget available.

See response to 172/1787.

172/1362

The Low Budget Alternative is totally unrealistic. The Sierra's current budget (about 13 million) is actually less than the proposed first decade level (14.1 million) under this alternative. However, your current management surely doesn't reflect the "Environment to be Created" under the future "low Budget" regime. This should be revised to meet the real world conditions.

During the planning process we developed our range of alternatives, including the Low Budget Alternative. This alternative represents a basic or low budget level of activities and commodity outputs prescribed by laws, regulations, and Forest Service management direction. It responds to the basic stewardship of the Forest over the planning period. The budget established for this basic level of land stewardship does seem unrealistic when compared to the budgets established for implementation of the other alternatives. We feel that our description of the "Environment to be Created" under this basic level of stewardship and the established budget required to implement it, is fairly accurate.

172/1383

It appears unrealistic to propose alternatives based on an increased budget allotment, especially a significant increase.

See response to 172/1787

172/1392

The Plan should include specific programs to guarantee that if budget goals are not met, timber production and other commodity related activities will not cause conservation practices to suffer.

See response to 172/1787.

172/1533

If the current trends in Federal domestic budget reductions continue, the budget goals called for by all alternatives of the Plan will not be met.

See response to 172/1787.

Sierra planners will face reduced budgets in the future, yet the Plan fails to describe how reduced budgets will be allocated among resources.

See response to 172/1787

While the total budget range of alternatives is adequate (101 percent for the first, 107 percent for the fifth decade), the lack of reduced or current budget alternatives, indicates a failure to beat NEPA standards for a broad range of alternatives.

NEPA standards require a reasonable range of alternatives. The current situation is a low budget alternative. Any alternative lower than low budget would not be considered reasonable.

172/1669

Current funding level is much lower than the proposed budget, and we wonder how this will affect some of the proposed management plans. The relationship between the different funding levels and the implementation of the Plan is not stated clearly enough. The Plan needs to more realistically address some of the effects that projected funding will have on the management.

See response to 172/1787.

172/1682

Upon early completion of key wildlife and other studies, reinstate in two or three years, a second Plan review well in advance of the authorized 10 year review. Including review as required by California Wilderness Act of released areas.

One of the major reasons for the formal monitoring plan is to keep current on what is happening in various forest programs throughout the Forest and to determine if expected results are occurring. This enables the Forest to change directions, and if need be, amend the current plan before the formal ten year review period is completed.

172/1737

The lack of protection for non-commodity resources if budgets are cut. The Plan assumes a large budget increase, when a large decrease is more likely. Too often in the past, increased timber has been used to offset budget cuts. The Plan should contain provisions to protect against this and to ensure that other services and programs are not cut disproportionately when budget problems occur.

See response to 172/1787.

172/1787

The Preferred Alternative calls for an increase in budget. There is no chance on that happening in the immediate future (budget deficits, cutbacks in domestic spending, no tax increase in the immediate future - present Washington climate). The Plan needs to spell out management direction if adequate funds are not forthcoming. All too often in the past the cut has still gotten out while everything else has suffered.

Because several comments were received on this subject, we developed Appendix P to explain the relationship between the planning and budgeting processes. Please refer to that Appendix for answers to your questions.

172/1858

Congress has given the Forest Service notice of its intent in the budgetary process. They're clearly telling you it is in the national interest to produce more timber and provide less in the non-essential amenities

Congress has traditionally given the Forest Service a balanced budget and is open to new programs and ideas. For example, Congress is now considering a major recreation initiative, which would emphasize the Forest's amenity values.

180-PRESCRIBED BURNING

180/0087

There are enough pollutants in the air already, so coordinating burn days in the Forest with other groups is a great idea

Thank you for your support.

180/1333

The League desires to be placed on the mailing list for notice of all planning documents on fuel reduction in the Giant Sequoia groves and notice for public review of the management plans for the Giant Sequoia groves.

Save The Redwoods League will be added to the mailing list to review plans related to the redwood groves in the Forest.

180/1658 & 1859

I strongly support the use of prescribed fires and natural fires to reduce fuels and maintain wilderness conditions. In the wilderness, no suppression should occur in natural fuelbeds. It is not necessary for prescribed fires to consume all the brush, some islands should remain. Controlled burns should be used as a habitat enhancement tool as well as a suppression method.

Thank you for your support. Because of past suppression policies, a large accumulation of fuels developed. In some cases, these fuels will require some form of suppression action. This does not have to be complete suppression, it can be a confinement or containment to drainages or large areas. In most cases, prescribed burns are designed to leave islands, especially if the burn has an objective of wildlife habitat improvement.

181-WILDERNESS AREAS

181/1806

The conduction of fire protection activities to minimize suppression impacts is good. Fires are quite healthy for the forest and should be allowed to burn wherever possible. Chemical retardants should never be used in wilderness.

The use of chemical retardants in wilderness areas has been reduced drastically over the years. It will continue to be reduced as we initiate the natural fire policy in our wilderness areas.

182-GENERAL FOREST AREAS

182/1716

Fire is being used in chaparral communities to reduce natural fire hazard and enhance wildlife and range resources. The preferred alternative does not detail how the fires will be planned. Without more specific details concerning how fire will be used on the Forest, CNPS cannot evaluate the potential impacts to native vegetation. We request that this information be provided before our review can be completed. Use of introduced non-natives after burning for forage stabilization is also harmful to chaparral vegetation.

Specific information that the CNPS needs should be contained in plans compiled during the implementation stage. Non-native plants will not be used.

190-RECREATION

190/0060

The design of the Amenity Alt. appears to be faulty, it limits developed recreation too stringently. Amenity values are enjoyed and consumed at a higher rate if the public has a reasonable amount of developed recreation. People use developed sites as bases for their jaunts into the dispersed recreation areas. They go together to provide a complete recreation experience and should not be funded, managed, and developed at different rates.

The amenity alternative emphasizes wildlife, aesthetics, and dispersed type camping and experience level. Developed Recreation is inappropriate in this alternative.

There is considerable mention of low standard service for recreation in many alternatives. Unless there was a conscious constraint of FORPLAN to do so, the objective function of maximizing PNV should have eliminated low standards.

You are correct in your observation. The FORPLAN model was constrained to give higher priority to basic resource protection rather than to provide a higher level of recreation service.

190/0103

Standard and Guideline #222 is bad because people like to get to the mountains by horseback. #250 increases the number of people in campgrounds, and is therefore bad, because people don't like to have people keeping them up all night. The trails will become worse and incur more soil erosion.

S&G #222 of the Draft Plan, refers to tie-up of stock near lakes and streams to prevent degradation of riparian zones and pollution. It does not affect the public's ability to get to the mountains. S&G #250 of the Draft Plan would only be accomplished by building more campgrounds, not increasing densities.

190/0106

How would you facilitate wheelchairs? For safety, you could put the rails where needed. Standard and Guidelines #202 & #335 only allow OHVs near the roads and not near ponds and caves, in order not to pollute the habitat and food of animals. Item #11 - Why do you need more road and trails and where would they lead? Item #47 - You want to protect 6 superior nest sites for the peregrine falcon, but what if a baby flies astray, how would you protect it?

Facilities in all new campground construction and reconstruction are designed to accommodate wheelchairs, then are reviewed by the handicapped. In addition, we are adding facilities at lakes to facilitate fishing by the handicapped. Plan Section 4.5.2.1 provides for a moderate increase in roads and trails. Most new roads built would be for timber harvesting in areas now unroaded. A few new trails would be built mostly for OHV use. The project planning phase of trail development ensures that trails do not adversely affect wildlife. Falcon chicks will be protected when project

implementation protects the habitat. We have no control over the dispersal of the young. We have protected sufficient habitat for the young to survive

190/0110

Standard and Guideline #9 was a good thing to do. It prohibited new recreation uses. Item #63 is not a very smart thing to do. Most animals need trees to survive. It takes a tree quite awhile to grow to normal size. I think that you should close the unnecessary roads.

Thank you for your comments. Unnecessary local roads will be closed to public use in all timber analysis areas in Management Area 4. S&G #349 of the Draft Plan would do the same thing in Management Area 5

190/0117

Increasing the number of camp units is a very good idea, because we can use the lumber. There shouldn't be maximum noise levels in the forest. You should not let people go closer than 100 feet to lakes and streams so those who can't swim will not drown. I think all lakes and streams should be restricted.

Noise level restrictions are supported by many users of the National Forest. They come to the Forest to get away from noise. Protection of their right to have peace and quiet seems reasonable. The 100 feet restriction from lakes and streams pertains to tie-up or picketing of horses and not a restriction of other valid uses of lakes and streams such as swimming, and fishing etc.

190/0120

I disagree with the amount of time given to overnighers. It should be 12-15 days. I agree that 150 boats is enough, more would be too crowded. I agree with the 15 mph speed limit for boats. I am happy about the rebuilding of trails, but not happy to wait until 2010. I like the protection for fish streams by not allowing drafting unless downstream discharge is needed. I like protection of nests and dens of young species. Why aren't changes made until 1990, i.e., grass to brush.

With some 1,100 miles of trails in the Forest, some are in need of major repair. Maintenance will be done by Forest Service crews and volunteers. The Forest also would like to see trails rebuilt sooner. Thank you for your support for boat speed limits. Water drafting will not be allowed if the water is needed for maintenance of downstream fisheries

190/0121

A one week campground limit is too short. I agree with recreational ideas. I think that the handicapped and disabled should have use of all facilities and be able to participate in most activities.

A one week camping limit is proposed for Summerdale Campground only. Most users of this campground stay overnight on their way to Yosemite National Park. Because of the popularity of this campground, to allow use longer than seven days would mean more sites would be tied up and many short period users left with no place to camp. All new rehabilitated sites are built to meet handicapped/disabled standards

190/0122

A lot of your suggestions may be too late by the time you put them into action. Will you be able to start the safety/convenience of trails? Will the year 2000 be soon enough for site protection and visitor safety? Will the changes addressed in Standard and Guideline #21 occur before review? How will you know if they take place?

The Forest will complete an OHV Plan within the next three years. This plan will analyze safety, access, and other types of uses, such as horses and cross-country bikes. The OHV Plan will be periodically monitored to ensure that the Standard and Guideline you refer to is closely followed. The Plan will be modified when any one of the changes occurs.

190/0128

I disagree with the increase in recreational developments because wildlife would be hurt, because of a greater potential for feeding on improper food, and being frightened away from their homes, due to noise from people. I agree and disagree that there should be safer trails, but should be done

so as to protect wildlife. I agree with the need for six superior nesting sites for peregrine falcons. Hopefully, they will live longer and more productive lives.

You are indicating that conflict occurs between the various resources. We have developed strategies for certain areas in the Forest Through our interdisciplinary process, we determine what trade-offs or mitigations are necessary to minimize the conflict. Sometimes, we trade a recreation value for a wildlife value. Sometimes, it is the other way However, we never intentionally make trade-offs that are so severe that we jeopardize the resource as a whole. Threatened and endangered species such as the peregrine falcon have total protection as mandated by law.

190/0129

The idea to increase the capacity of sites by 7% is completely impractical. Reviewing the OHV plan in case of change is most ridiculous. By then, the damage is done. Vehicle traffic should be kept to a minimum and on the road, not off No increase in wilderness viewing, protect wild animals at all times. I like the idea of making trails safe and encouraging use of the Forest by minorities and disabled. Keep vehicle levels low in deer winter range. Maintain current water levels in rivers. Protect meadows, timber, water, and soil.

Demand for recreation in the Forest is discussed in the DEIS pg 3-14 Sec.3.5.1.1. Based on the projected increases shown in this section and the fact that developed sites are only at 26% estimated capacity, a 7% increase in our estimate of increase capacity is needed. Increases in demand could require an increase above 7%. The Forest will complete an OHV plan within the next three years. Your concerns will be addressed during the preparation of this plan Thank you for your support of our trail objectives and policy toward minorities and disabled. Objectives of the Plan are to keep vehicle levels low in deer winter range and to protect meadows, timber, water and soil.

190/0133

I agree that more sanitation facilities and parking is needed. I like the idea of preserving cultural and historic sites, preserve marshlands and meadows Good goals for protection of endangered birds I am opposed to increased commercial activity. McDonalds and Burger King would ruin the naturalness. I oppose the decision to restrict Denver Church and Little Denver Church Campground to day use only. It would be a disappointment to me and quite a few other people if those campgrounds were closed.

S&G #251 of the Draft Plan describes the conversion of Denver Church and Little Denver Church campground to day use. These facilities would be replaced by the expansion of Lupine Campground (to be renamed Lupine/Cedar Bluff Campground). Only day use would be permitted next to the lakeshore. This would allow everyone to use the lakeshore and not infringe on those camping. Those using campgrounds would still have nice views of the lake at many of the new campsites at Lupine/Cedar.

190/0134

Is a 7% increase in capacity of developed sites enough? Why provide upgrading of commercial recreational services and facilities? How are you going to rehabilitate facilities in dispersed recreational areas to provide visitor safety and site protection by 2005? For changes in objectives of a specific area, how will they know if these changes take place? I compliment you on your idea to build a bicycle/foot path around Bass lake.

Demand for recreation in the Forest is discussed in the DEIS, pg. 3-14. Based on the projected increases shown in this section and the fact that developed sites are only at 26% estimated capacity, a 7% increase is our estimate of new capacity needed Increases in demand could require an increase above this. Dispersed areas will be rehabilitated through traffic control and upgrading of toilet and water facilities, where safety and health problems exist. Success of this proposal will depend on adequate funding being available from Congress, or on partnership agreements between other groups that might cooperate in providing monies for development

190/0135

Increasing roads and trails sounds good. Sometimes it is hard to drive on the road with all those cars filled with people. I also think you should provide parking and sanitation facilities for snow play, snowmobiling, and cross-county ski areas.

Thank you for your comment supporting increased roads and trails. The Forest recognizes that lack of parking and sanitation facilities for snow activities is a problem. Funding and development will be consistent with the Draft Plan, pg 4-19 #16. During the last decade, the Forest has worked with state agencies to construct three trail heads for winter use parking.

190/0136

The forest would look and be much more interesting with trails for hiking or bicycle riding in the summer, or for snowmobiling and cross-country skiing in the winter.

The Plan recommends more trails. Within the next three years an OHV plan will be prepared. Snowmobile routes will be designated in this plan.

190/0137

Is 2010 soon enough to keep the public interested? I wish it could be in the next few years. If you plan on "increasing road and trail construction," why "limit recreational events involving motorized vehicles?" To save land from overuse? The Forest is very considerate in its encouragement of the handicapped to join the fun and visit forests. How will you cater to their special needs? Do you have the handicapped helping you decide? Where will you publish changes to original plan?

Past funding for trail reconstruction has been slow in coming. Our most realistic projections to complete trail reconstruction is 2010. In all new campground and new facility construction or reconstruction, we provide access for the handicapped. Facilities like toilets, tables, etc., are now available to certain handicapped persons within newly constructed or rehabilitated recreation forest areas. The Final Plan will be available in libraries and district offices.

190/0138

I agree with Standard and Guideline #202 pg.4-38 of the Plan, concerning recreational vehicles on designated route/areas. Airplane wreckage should be removed immediately to beautify forest and prevent danger to people who may enter the Forest. Aircraft noise will detract from environment and exhaust may pollute environment. Make sure boats do not ruin the bottom of the lakes. I disapprove of getting rid of cover for animals and unbalance ecosystem of wilderness. I don't agree that we should provide expansion for Sierra Summit, it discourages competition from other possible resorts.

S&G #382 of the Draft Plan states "Require removal of aircraft wreckage." This will be the accepted practice, but may take time due to terrain and size of the job. Immediate removal may not be possible in every case and will be treated on a case-by-case basis. The Plan includes a balance of ecosystems for wildlife. Sierra Summit is the only approved ski area on the Forest. Expansion should not affect competition from adjacent ski areas in Yosemite Park or adjacent forest.

190/0141

I fully support improvements to hiking trails, campgrounds, etc. One of the best recommendations is to design facilities for the handicapped. I don't think you should encourage Mass Transit. The beauty of the Forest will be ruined by "tourist attractions." Improvements to roads will hopefully reduce number of accidents and/or deaths. Because of the many people, including children, who picnic in the snow and ski areas, I think it's a good idea to keep oversnow vehicles in special areas. The idea of a path around the lake is wonderful.

Thank you for your support. Your comments were considered in our final analysis.

190/0143

I don't think you need to increase the camp units by 5% unless your department is really in need of more camp units. I think if people want to stay over 7 nights you should make them pay extra. I agree with plan of allowing water skiing and other towed aqua-planing devices. It will make

Huntington Lake more enjoyable for tenants. I think you should start to limit oversnow vehicles to designated areas. They are dangerous to wandering children and adults

DEIS Sec. 3.5.1 1 discusses supply and demand. With the increase in use shown in this area, it is our estimate that developed campsites will need to be increased by about 7% by the year 2000. Thank you for your support for management of Huntington Lake. Oversnow vehicles will be limited to designated areas and trails as you recommend.

190/0144

I like the idea of rehabilitating trails for safety and recreation protection by 2010. Encourage use of Forest by handicapped, disadvantaged, and minority persons. Creating special facilities, such as ramps, rails and braille signs will help more people learn about nature. There should be limits on boats, overnight trailers and people using the area. Boats at Bass Lake should be limited to 150 on July 1 to Labor Day for the safety of the boat owners, other people and nature.

The surface of Bass Lake is administered by Madera County. We agree with your concern and have taken steps in this direction as shown in S&Gs #241 & #242 of the Draft Plan.

190/0145

I don't think it's important or necessary to upgrade commercial recreational services and facilities. Why would you restrict all but motor bikes. Wouldn't they be just as dangerous? What will they do to see if these things take place or happen? Who is going to do all the work? How will they protect it?

Upgrading does not necessarily mean expansion. Often improvement is made for appearance, convenience to the public, and for health and safety. OHV vehicles would be restricted to trails and areas where they can operate safely, not cause damage to the resources, or conflict with other uses. The Forest will treat your concerns through the monitoring plan. Proposals and corrections will be made, as needed.

190/0149

I think it would be fun to have a bicycle/foot path around the lake so people could take a night hike. I think it is too dangerous to have people riding bicycles in mountainous areas.

Mountain bikes would be allowed in areas outside wilderness only where their use can occur without safety or resource problems. A plan will be developed, as stated in the Draft Plan pg.4-19 #20.

190/0152

It is a great idea to rehabilitate trails, but I think it should be a little sooner. I think we do need to encourage the handicapped and the disadvantaged people. Provide expansion for a ski resort? I don't like to ski, lots of people don't like to ski, so why do we need this?

Thank you for your supporting trail rehabilitation and encouragement for the handicapped and disadvantaged. Budget limits our ability to complete our trail work before 2010. Expansion of the ski area is needed to accommodate those who enjoy skiing. No other ski areas would be developed until Sierra Summit reaches capacity.

190/0154

My family likes going up to the mountains for the day. My whole family would appreciate a daytime picnicking, swimming and fishing site.

Thank you for your suggestion. See response to 190/0133.

190/0157

Protecting the nests and dens of all sensitive species until the young are gone is a great idea. Route travelways to avoid wet meadows is very good. Update the Forest's Cultural Resource Overview on a 5 year basis. Roads need to be taken care of. Limiting by posted weight limits and special use (haul) seasons is a good idea.

Thank you for your supportive comments.

190/0160

I'm not real happy with Standard and Guideline #303 of the Plan. The Dinkey Creek Pack Station should be reopened. The pack station was there for recreational purposes and should stay that way. OHVs should be ridden in campgrounds for additional recreation while camping. There should be designated riding areas so that they will not disturb animals in the area.

Modifications have been made to the Plan to permit expansion under certain circumstances. Many members of the public object to the operation of OHVs in campgrounds. The purpose of many who visit the National Forest is peace and quiet.

190/0166

I think an information center would be great. Then people who are interested in the forest wildlife will be able to learn more about it. I agree with #20 pg 4-19 of the Plan, because people who like to have nice, peaceful bike rides through the forest will be able to have them. I agree you should keep vehicle travel at low levels in deer ranges.

Thank you for your support.

190/0171

I like the idea of providing facilities for the handicapped. I also like the idea of having information stations available to tourists.

All new or rehabilitated developed recreation sites within the Forest will provide facilities for handicapped persons. Thank you for your support.

190/0173

I think it is a good idea to limit commercial rafting.

Managing the use and establishing quotas along the rivers will be addressed in management plans scheduled to be completed for the Merced & Kings Rivers by 1990.

190/0186

Please include the following points in the master plan of the Forest:

- 1) Reduce timber harvest acres.
- 2) Support the wilderness designation for the KRRRA.
- 3) Include in your budget a large sum for trail building and maintenance.

Thank you for your Wilderness designations.

Your support for reduced timber harvesting was considered during the preparation of the final plan. The KRRRA was designated as a special management area through an Act of Congress. Budget emphasis for trails must come from Congress. The Forest supports an emphasis for trails construction and maintenance. Thank you for recognizing our support for the wilderness areas on the Forest.

190/0297

I think that the night stay should be limited to 10 nights because other people would like turns in the campground. I agree with your plan to allow water skiing and other towed aqua-planing devices.

S&G #266 of the Draft Plan presently states "Limit overnight visits in campgrounds to 14 nights" at Huntington Lake. When demand reaches a point where numerous people are not able to find campsites at Huntington Lake, a solution would be to reduce limits of stay to ten or seven nights or to increase the number of camping spaces. The Forest will consider these options as demand increases.

190/0517

I am in favor of development of recreation areas within the Forest road system both summer and winter.

Your comment was considered during the final analysis.

190/0602

The Plan states "Conflicts... between recreational activities and resource management are now occurring" This is true because management for timber production conflicts with almost every other use, especially recreational use Also, because recreational activities account for less than 10% of Forest revenues, conflict exists with activities producing more income.

Conflicts occur because most resources have different objectives. We have found conflicts can be resolved through the E.A. planning process. Vegetation management can benefit recreation activities, if managed correctly.

190/1018

Footpaths are fine to a point. But to make more of them and cut down on the maintenance of roads and the building of new roads, I feel is wrong. You are forgetting the elderly who can not walk very far, and the handicapped that can not walk at all, or families with very small children. Isn't the Forest for them too? I would hate to think it is just for the strong and the young.

We agree, the Forest is for everyone The Plan has a very small percentage increase in the number of additional trail miles (Plan Table 4.02 and 4 03) Under most circumstances trails are not constructed at the expense of roads.

190/1178

We do not feel that visitors to our national forests should have to pay for the privilege. Those staying in the improved campgrounds should pay a reasonable fee for the clean-up and maintenance of those facilities

Visitors do not have to pay to visit the National Forest unless they stay within an improved recreation area

190/1221

I wish to add my voice to the many other voices recommending Alternatives H-MKT or C-RPA to the Plan. My understanding is that these two plans will maintain and enhance recreational opportunities, provide for quality wilderness experiences and slightly increase the quantity of water for irrigation.

Your preference for Alternative H-MKT and C-RPA was considered during the final analysis

190/1366

The growth of metropolitan areas like the Bay Area will soon make recreational uses on the Forest exceed timber uses in importance. We urge you to place greater emphasis on the preservation of roadless areas to provide the type of dispersed recreational values that will continue to grow in demand.

A vast increase in roadless areas (acres) occurred on the Forest through the passage of the 1984 Wilderness Act The Forest now has some 528,000 acres of wilderness, made up of all or part of five wilderness areas. Your preference for retaining the roadless areas outside wilderness in a roadless condition was considered in the final analysis.

190/1492

I am concerned with the schedule of fees shown as "willingness to pay values" on pg. 7-37 of the Appendices.

1)These values are used in generating the benefits column for recreation in the PNV computation.
2)These figures are much higher than any fees currently being charged by the Forest. The assumption that people would in fact be willing to pay these fees is, I think, questionable.

The fees people would be willing to pay are based on surveys and estimates. They do not reflect what the Forest Service could charge However, concessionaires are charging and receiving fees close to the amounts shown in the Appendix.

I believe that the facilities offering more than just basic amenities should be put on a paying basis-the minimum fee necessary to amortize installation and pay for maintenance. Have a mixture of "deluxe" facilities for those who want and are able to pay for them and "basic" opportunities for those who do not want or can't afford deluxe.

Thank you for your suggestions. New legislation before Congress may provide more areas where fees will be charged. For those who prefer not to pay for camping, the Forest has vast acres of dispersed recreational opportunities. For those who prefer deluxe areas, Bass & Huntington Lakes will provide flush toilets and full services.

190/1552

When is the salvation of the Forest lands for recreation more important than the livelihood of the people?

Both recreation and timber are "important", as well as the other forest resources. The key is to obtain a balance of all resources to meet the public's needs. We feel the Preferred Alternative meets this balance.

190/1581

Assumptions for recreation demand determination based upon extrapolating use data with population growth is an erroneous method that needs ratification. Recreation demand will not be proportional to population growth during the planning period because population aging and concomitant changing preferences are not considered.

Although recreation demand is not exactly proportional to population growth, national trends do indicate that as population increases, so does the demand for recreation. While demand can be expected to increase with population, the exact nature of this demand cannot be predicted with precision. Nevertheless, current use data and population projections can be effectively used as a planning tool in the absence of more detailed user-age and recreation preference data. Use preferences were assumed to be proportional to mixture reflective in 1982 uses irrespective of age, ethnicity or other factors. Despite the fact that a greater proportion of the population will be older during the planning period, we cannot accurately predict if or how this projection, or other unforeseen factors, will alter current use patterns. Thus, in the absence of more reliable data, the Forest used existing data and population projections as a basis for estimating future uses.

190/1601

On what are the estimates for future recreation use based? The figures seem to be purposely underestimated to mask the inevitable conflicts between recreational uses and planned industrial forest management.

Estimates for future recreational use were based on the most up-to-date estimates shown in the Forest's RIM (Recreation Information Management) and future state use data available. See response 190/1581

190/1681

Is any consideration going to be given to designate areas for target shooting to help control shooting. Also designate areas for sanitation, parking, and maintenance.

The Forest does not feel there is a significant degree of "target shooting" to warrant establishing areas for such use. Forests like the Angeles NF have more demand and have specific areas for shooting. These areas don't solve all the problems, and in some cases, result in increased vandalism and littering. Should shooting become a problem on the Forest, an analysis will be made to determine the best solution.

190/1684

I have no problem supporting the "full service" type campground. I would also support more primitive campsites that offer the user few or no services. I would expect that users of the full service campground would have to pay for those facilities. I would oppose fees imposed on someone who pulls off a logging road and elects to camp where there are no facilities.

Your comments support current Forest Service management policies. We see no reason to charge for dispersed camping unless Congress should establish entrance fees for National Forests or areas within certain National Forests.

190/1714

Our family enjoys camping, fishing and hiking in the natural forest. We feel that keeping up with the demand for lumber, at the level that it has been in the past, 150 MMBF, is not a threat to continued enjoyment of the forest's beauty by everyone.

Your comment was considered in our analysis.

190/1755

Plan pg 4-43 #272 specifically uses the word "minor" with respect to allowable expansion of the majority of the resorts, while #273 makes reference to Rancheria Garage without including the word "minor". As owners of two commercial businesses, we feel the word "minor" should be deleted from #272 or added to #273.

S&G #272 of the Draft Plan has been modified to prescribe that expansion of overnight PAOT is limited to that presently approved in existing project EAs until completion of Huntington Lake Composite Plan (1991). #273 of the Draft Plan remains the same.

190/1806

Calling logged-over areas with closed roads "scarce semi-primitive opportunities" (Plan p.2-3) does not make these areas any more popular. "About half of the waters are in areas not subject to intensive land and vegetation disturbing activities" (Plan p.3-7), does not alter the fact that half the waters are subject to intense disturbing activities. The only thing accomplished by such statements is a misled public.

We are not trying to mislead the public. Outside of wilderness, semiprimitive opportunities are limited on this Forest. Therefore, when semiprimitive opportunities do occur in certain areas of intensive management, we close the roads after the management activity is completed, to protect the area. We are not trying to say these areas will be more popular, only that semiprimitive opportunities exist, and are available for public enjoyment.

Demand should not be inferred using 1982, a recession year. Equestrian uses, with its associated negative impacts on water, Giardiae, soil, riparian, etc., should not be allowed at all in some areas (like upper elevation meadows), let alone encouraged.

The demand projections seem to be on track. Adjustments will be made if projections are inaccurate. Where or if stock use becomes a problem and results in deterioration of resources, then restrictions will be placed on such use after an analysis with public involvement.

190/1809

I see a future with greatly increased recreational use of the Forest. There should be minimal impact on the natural environment due to timber harvesting. No new roads should be constructed in the South Fork Merced River watershed, and no cutting should be conducted in the "viewshed" of Yosemite National Park.

Thank you for your comment.

With subsequent increased recreation there will be a need for increased trail maintenance and new trail construction.

You are correct in your assessment The Forest trail system will expand moderately, with more intensive maintenance and management of the system. Needed trail maintenance will depend mostly on volunteers and to a limited degree on Forest crews

193-VISTA SCENIC POINTS

193/1787

Shuteye Peak is an area of exceptional beauty and little timber value. Its classification, however, should be "Dispersed Recreation-No Timber Harvest" rather than its present "Dispersed Recreation". OHV use should be restricted to existing roads and jeep trails. Thornberry Mountain-Teaford Saddle should be classified "Front Zone," as it is in Alt. D and not as general forest as it is in the Preferred Alt. All too often in the past, intensive timber sale has resulted in extensive generation of brush, rather than regeneration of forest.

Your comments were considered in the final analysis. OHV use for the entire forest will be restricted to roads and trails

As for the area north of the White Chief-Iron Mountain Ridgeline, this is Red Fir Forest at about 8500 feet elevation. The marginal value of the timber or use for recreation and the exercise of accessing it would not be worth the integrity of this watershed. The purpose of the Visual Quality Objective should be retention. Offhand, I could support designating Bishop Creek Ponderosa into an RNA, as an area of vegetative diversity. But, seeing it as a typical Ponderosa Pine Ecosystem is ridiculous

The area north of White Chief-Iron Mountain is in an area that is "designated dispersed recreation with no timber harvesting " This area is inaccessible and has very little timber value. However, it does not fit the criteria for retention because there is little public use.

193/1806

Any features that characterize the jewels of our nation, the national parks, should be duplicated wherever possible, not just complimented.

Many special features on the Forest have been given special protection (similar to that of a National Park) in the Plan.

194-GENERAL SNOW PLAY AREAS

194/1684

I have no problem with "snow play" areas like Goat Meadow, either with or without facilities.

Thank you for your support of our "snow play" areas.

195/0108

The idea to rehabilitate the trails for safety is excellent for families with small children and the elderly. Another good idea is to stop OHV from traveling the areas occupied by animals frightened by the motor.

Thank you for your support. The Plan restricts OHV use to roads and trails. A forest OHV plan will be prepared within the next three years designating which roads and trails will be open to OHVs. The public is invited to participate in future public meetings for this project

195/0114

There are many good ideas in the recreation section, an example of some are. Rehabilitation of trails for user safety, convenience, and resource protection Does this project have to take until the year 2010? Encouragement of the use of the forest by handicapped, disadvantaged, and minority people is helpful to everyone in the community Building facilities for them provides easier, more accessible use for everyone. I like emphasizing opportunities for equestrians

Thank you for your support. Please see response to 190/0137 for time it will take to rehabilitate Forest Service trails

195/0126

It is a good idea to keep roads as far from lakes and streams as possible Animals need access to water without being scared away. I object to putting jogging and cycling trails around lakes That can cause littering which will ruin the animals' environment. It will also scare the animals away from the water

Biking, jogging, and walking paths are planned around portions of Huntington and Bass Lakes. The need and demand for access to the shore is predominate at both of these lakes. The concern you expressed regarding animals should only cause minor problems which will be dealt with by our field personnel.

195/0154

I think we already have enough roads in the forest. However, I would like to see more trails. I think bike riding in the mountains is a good idea

The Preferred Alternative includes a moderate increase in both trail and road construction We feel we reached a balance between the two types of uses. Thank you for supporting the Forest Service bike trail proposal

195/0164

I think the rehabilitation of trails is good and increasing the capacity of developed sites by 7% is a positive step. I think the changes in sites needs to come at an earlier date.

Thank you for your support.

195/0178

I love the idea of making the trails safer and encouraging the disabled to participate in activities. I think they should be able to enjoy the environment of the forest.

Thank you for your support

195/0187

I believe consideration must be given to trail building and maintenance.

Consideration will be given to trail rehabilitation as budgets and priorities change.

195/0224

I would like to express my support to the following area A plan to increase and maintain trails.

Thank you for your support

195/0272

Consider rehabilitating trails and wild campsites following lumbering in Dispersed Recreation areas and in the general forest

This is our intention on all timber sales.

195/0286

We noticed some messy campsites at the Kistlers Cabin site and mouth of Bishop Creek and recommend that they be cleaned up. Poison oak should be cleared back from the river trail.

Your input has been passed on to our field personnel. Thank you for your comment.

195/0304

Alternative F recommends timber harvesting along existing trails, I don't agree with this You should stick with Alternative A.

Thank you for your support. Impacts created by logging near trails is considered in planning and administration of individual timber sales. Generally logging will avoid trails or will be selective (lighter harvest). At times, logging and even clear cutting can open vistas along trails which provide the users an opportunity to see more of the country.

195/1178

We do not feel that your goal of rehabilitating the trails by 2010 is acceptable. Trail maintenance and the condition of trails is bad. We urge that additional funding efforts go into correcting the problem. Additional parking areas and facilities should be provided at "trailhead" locations. Trail signs along the the Forest trails are in poor condition.

Funding for parking, trail maintenance, and signs depends on appropriations from Congress. If appropriations, outside sources of funding and volunteers exceed expectations, this work may be completed before the year 2010.

195/1533

New trail construction and existing trail maintenance are given an extremely low priority. The Plan is extremely vague with regard to current trail inventory and specific planning. Plan and DEIS should include maps of existing and proposed trails. Prescriptions should be thoroughly planned for management of existing and proposed within the areas

A complete analysis of the trail system and particularly OHV trails will be accomplished by the Forest OHV Plan scheduled for completion within the next three years.

The Plan should identify conflicts and potential conflicts between and among specific user groups and the potential aesthetic impact on trail corridors The Plan should give trail construction, reconstruction, and maintenance equal weight to that of other Forest management goals.

See response to 195/1533 and 195/1178.

195/1667 & 1533

We have been concerned that in recent budget squeezes, trails have suffered throughout California's national forests. We hope your final plan will call for more than the small number (21) of extra trail miles to be built in the next decade, and will place more emphasis on trail maintenance, improvement and reconstruction. A volunteer trail program should be incorporated

See responses to 195/0154 and 195/1737

195/1684

You are spending money on trail maintenance when it's not really needed. Forest Service standards do not appear as high as those of Park Service. You do not have to construct trails to as high a standard. Not every trail need be up to the equestrian standard. I propose two types of trails, high standard multipurpose and a lower standard secondary walking trail. I propose an upstream extension of the trail to Hite's Cove. Another trail proposal going up the Kings River should be extended from Garlic Falls to the Middle Fork. I'd like to see trails in the low country that could be used in the winter.

Plan Sec 4.3.6 discusses three types of trails in wilderness areas. Both "path" and "ways" would be built to lower standards and not to equestrian standards. All of our trails do not receive the same level of maintenance. Generally, only more highly used trails receive intensive maintenance. We currently are working toward completing the San Joaquin River Trail which will provide one of the experiences you are recommending. This trail begins at Squaw Leap and ends at Red's Meadow near Devils Postpile. The trails you are recommending will be considered during the current Wild and Scenic River analyses.

195/1737

I feel you should reconsider the lack of planning and financing for trail maintenance. I favor the proposed construction of new trails, but feel that there must also be an emphasis on maintaining existing trails. I support the alternate proposal of establishing a program for local groups and organizations to volunteer for this work under Forest Service supervision.

We agree that many miles of existing trails take precedence over adding new trails. We must continue maintenance on the investment we already have. We have an active volunteer program on the Forest now and will continue to work toward an expanded program. See response to 190/0120.

195/1804

I recall a number of trails whose maintenance was not up to standard. Most of them are now inside the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness. The Sierra has a lot of "front country" with a long usage season, and more trails are needed there. Winter hiking in the foothills can be very enjoyable.

See response to 195/1737 and 195/1684.

195/1817

Existing system trails should be preserved and maintained. Trails which have been cropped from the system should be inventoried, and where practical re-established. Reconstruction of existing trails should be given priority over construction of new trails.

See response to 195/1737.

196-WATER ORIENTED SPORTS

196/0011

Water skiing has been growing at an alarming rate and there seems to be a lack of public places one can use for this recreation. I hope that a water ski/marine operation will be able to fit into the Forest Plan.

Future management plans for specific lakes will address expansion of marina operations, where and if they are environmentally appropriate.

196/0180

Maybe, if you lower boat speeds at a certain time of day, fewer accidents would occur.

Several S&Gs address boat speeds. Generally, boat speeds are reduced at night, near marinas, and swimming areas.

196/0297

I disagree with Standard and Guideline #315, commercial rafting is dangerous.

Many activities on National Forest land pose some danger. For activities such as rafting, users are advised to carry emergency equipment and be extra careful. Because commercial rafters use experienced guides, their safety record is much better than for those members of the public who raft with little or no experience.

196/0336

I hope to see organized water skiing in the proposed Forest Plan.

See response to 196/0011.

200-RECREATION DEVELOPED

200/0017

Designate Dinkey Creek as a "developed family and youth camp area," protecting it's current uses, while precluding its development as a reservoir.

The designation of an area does not preclude its ability to be reclassified to another designation. The only condition a hydroelectric development proponent would have to comply with is mitigation for loss of public resources, which would be borne by the licensee. The Dinkey Creek reservoir proposal has been withdrawn

200/0060

A new Amenity Alt needs to be developed that allows more and better standards of developed recreation and de-emphasizes OHV routes and use. It will have a better PNV and be implementable within a reasonable budget. The future of the Forest lies in recreation and tourism and the Plan should start heading that way now before more land is irreversibly damaged.

Alternative H best addresses your concerns The theme of the Amenity Alternative emphasize aesthetics, dispersed recreation and wildlife. An increase in developed recreation does not fit this theme.

200/0089

There is no reason why capacity on developed sites is being increased by 7%. Why was 7% chosen? It is contradictory to prohibit new recreation uses, but at the same time, improve commercial recreational services unless it is improved for safety reasons.

The figure of 7% came from a study which indicated recreation would increase nationally by approximately that percent. Commercial recreational services will be allowed to improve for health and safety reasons.

200/0168

1- I don't feel you need to spend money to upgrade commercial recreational services. Spend the money on something else

2-Classification of river corridors may not be fit for wildlife in the area Congress designates.

3-You should give much greater emphasis to improving habitats for endangered species.

1.Upgrading commercial recreational services are allowed only when public demand or need indicates increased service. Funding comes from private sources, not public funds.

2 River classification proposals are normally presented to Congress by the Forest Service. This Plan recommends 225 miles of river be considered for classification in the Wild and Scenic River System. These corridors generally benefit wildlife because the classification limits or eliminates developments in the riparian areas important for wildlife.

3. The S&G concerning sensitive, threatened, and endangered species has been revised to emphasize the need for improving habitats for these species.

200/0387

I am unable to endorse Alternative A because, only moderate increases are proposed for developed recreational opportunities. Studies show this is an area subject to significant future needs.

Alternative A was developed around a theme which emphasized a moderate increase in activities. The Forest Service has an obligation to provide a balance between resources and uses. If the demand for developed recreation exceeds expectations the Plan can be amended

200/0464

PG&E is concerned that Forest decisions will impact PG&E recreational facilities. Forest implies that recreation development should be allowed to meet demand. We would disagree with this philosophy in specific cases. Controls should be established and/or enforced where high recreation use occurs and a plan formulated for allowing highly used sites to "recover."

In the past the demand for developed sites has been so great that closing sites for one, two or three seasons has not been considered. This concern will be considered when the Forest does individual development plans for developed recreation areas.

200/1528

I agree that many low standard camp and picnic areas need improvement.

Thank you for sharing your concerns. Currently, the Forest is preparing rehabilitation plans for most recreation sites.

200/1533

We support this limited expansion of developed recreation sites, so long as all such development is conducted within Forest Service guidelines.

There will be a moderate increase in the number of developed recreation sites. Most of the new development will be done by existing commercial permittees and/or licensees as a requirement for new or relicensed water projects. (Plan 4 3.4) The new facilities will be built to county and Forest Service construction code standards.

200/1581

Demand for developing site recreation is a much stronger trend than is experienced or expected for the low intensity dispersed and Wilderness uses. Comparison of Figure F-1 and G-1 graphically display the close gap between demand and capacity for campgrounds in contrast with dispersed areas.

Figures F-1 and G-1 shows the gap between capacity and demand for developed recreation closes at a faster rate than dispersed recreation. This reflects national trends. Over the next several years, nationwide emphasis will be placed on developed recreation.

Developed sites, such as boat launches and winter sports areas, are not keeping pace with demand for such opportunities. We strongly recommend more emphasis in Forest recreation planning upon developed sites

The opportunities for developed recreation during this planning phase includes public campgrounds, picnic areas, visitor information centers, vistas, resorts, organization camps, recreational residences, and winter sports areas. Facilities not included in this list would be addressed when the plan is re-evaluated at the end of the first ten years or on a case-by-case basis if the development was minor, such as a boat launch.

In view of the contrasting emphasis on developed recreation between Alternatives A and H, why is the first decade use displayed as identical in DEIS Table 2.24? The same question applies to the annual use outputs for dispersed recreation.

Alternatives A & H are the same because the Forest proposal for developed recreation was the same in all commodity oriented alternatives. This was based on the decision that expansion of developed recreation facilities would only occur through development of new hydroelectric projects. Since the Forest could not predict when and if these hydroelectric projects would occur, the projections for each alternative were based on existing facilities. Thus, the numbers are the same.

Dispersed recreation is based on projections and trends with no specific data collection. The Forest did not do anything specifically to increase use. See Appendix B, Sec. B.5.3, Table B.06. Dispersed & Developed Recreational Demand Cutoffs.

200/1658

I support the preferred alternative for developed recreation. In Management Area 2, I am concerned that "dispersed recreation" has been allowed to increase on the north side of Merced River to the point where developments have become necessary. Camping should be eliminated north of the river or campsites should be developed.

Congress has designated Merced River as a Wild/Scenic River The Forest Service will classify the river and develop a management plan for the area. This Plan will address your concerns.

200/1669

All new water development areas should not be considered for reclassification into developed recreation analysis areas

The new water development project areas will be considered for reclassification into developed recreation analysis areas Your concern would be presented during the public involvement portion of the analysis

200/1684

I would oppose a significant number of developed sites as proposed in Alt. H. I feel, if you try to accommodate ultimate potential demand, you risk losing the very values people come to find.

We agree with your assessment.

200/1761

We endorse any provision which provides for increasing the number of developed recreation sites to accommodate the anticipated growth in demand over the next 10 years.

The Plan includes a moderate increase in the number of developed recreation sites which should meet the demand over the next ten years.

201-CAMPGROUNDS

201/0089

You recommend developing 5% more camp units, why 5%? If recreation sites are increased in capacity, camp sites should be increased the same amount.

A developed recreation analysis was conducted. This projected increase is based on past history and projections for the future See Developed Site Use Appendix F.

201/0173

I don't think you should limit overnight visits to 7. It seems useless unless there is an overabundance of campers at Summerdale. I disapprove of S&G #367. Finally, I don't exactly disapprove of #7, but I think the non-profit recreational services and facilities, such as state parks, should also be upgraded, if necessary.

The seven day camping limit at Summerdale campground was included because of demand from the public trying to get into Yosemite Park. If visitors stay for an extended period, spaces won't be available for park overflow. The issue of "wheeled mechanical devices" will be addressed in wilderness management plans

201/1158

We feel the management direction for recreation is toward restriction and concentration; or, in the instance of the developed campground concessionaire policy, of abandoning administrative responsibility. I submit that this direction will not solve the problem. The causes are essentially two: first, recreation has always been an orphan in Forest administration; second, there is inequity in the imposed fee system. The policy direction for closure of timber access roads to recreational use refutes the policies of Congress concerning the use of forest roads and trail funds. Concessionaire administration is an error. However, more damaging is that the concessionaire program transfers the jurisdiction over the public land to the State of California. The solution is the encouragement of the use of undeveloped areas for primitive camping experiences.

The concessionaire program on the Forest is under contract to an organization that has "California" in the title. The Forest still maintains control of the program through terms of the contract. The determination whether roads or trails are left open is made on a case-by-case basis after an environmental analysis has been completed. Most roads are constructed from timber receipts, not Forest road and trail funds

201/1178

We feel the Forest should provide for a wide variety of camping facilities from single campsites to small, unimproved areas with no facilities. There is a definite lack of camping facilities for groups.

The Forest Service shares your concern on group camping. The Preferred Alternative provides a variety of facilities. This topic will be addressed in future recreation plans.

201/1301

Our concern is S&G #271, which limits overnight capacity at all public and private facilities within Analysis Area 47 to 7,300 (PAOT) combined. In the winter time, this is not a major problem because of limited use of campgrounds. In the summer, however, overnight use is projected to approach 7,300 PAOT without the project.

The Forest has recognized the need to resolve the 7,300 PAOT limitation on overnight camping in the Huntington Lake area and has revised the S&G pertaining to this issue to say that limited expansion may occur within existing permits. How and where expansion will occur will be determined by the Huntington Lake Recreation Area Composite Plan which will be completed by 1993. See response to 141/1755.

201/1383

The use of contractors to operate recreational facilities should be supported.

The use of contractors will be encouraged where appropriate.

202-CONCESSIONAIRES

202/0087

I don't like the idea of allowing new commercial shops to open up in the Forest.

Thank you for your comment. S&G #7 of the Draft Plan was included, so that when future demand is clearly indicated, it would be possible to upgrade services.

202/0902

I hope we can convince you to recommend that the campgrounds in the Forest be kept out of the hands of the private concessionaires. This would be in the best interest of the public.

Concessionaires can be used as a "management tool" to reduce costs, keep campgrounds open and to upgrade campgrounds if funds are not available through the normal budgetary process. If and when greater emphasis to funding recreation maintenance and campground development occurs, the use of concessionaires may decrease.

203-SIERRA SUMMIT

203/0087

Why do you need more room for skiing? Don't you have plenty of room for skiing already?

As the demand for skiing increases, the Red Mountain vicinity near Strawberry Lake is the only area suitable for potential expansion of Sierra Summit

203/1282

Planned expansion of ski facilities at Sierra Summit is environmentally indefensible and should be cancelled

Any planned development on National Forest lands would be mitigated so no long-term resource damage occurs.

203/1301

Sierra Summit and the Forest Service realize that realistic expansions can not take place without providing quality overnight accommodations in the form of a destination resort. Although the proposed project would be developed on private land, it will depend for its success on long-term policies of the Forest Service.

Thank you for your comment.

203/1684

I have no problem with a moderate expansion of Sierra Summit, as outlined in several of the alternatives, although the 8,500 PAOT proposed in Alternative H might be a bit much.

Thank you for your support. The 8,500 PAOT would occur only if public demand supports expansion, and only if the increase is reasonable from an environmental viewpoint.

207-FLORENCE LAKE

207/1806

The removal of all of the inholdings in or near Blaney Meadow should receive the highest priority. In the meantime, vehicular travel there should be banned. This should be wilderness!

Continued vehicular access to Muir Trail Ranch was a provision authorized by Congress in the California Wilderness Act of 1984.

208-REDINGER

208/0080

I hope you will be able to develop plans to include a water ski area (slalom course), some camping areas and marina facilities.

The Redinger Lake area has been considered for developed recreation, camping, and water skiing. Proposals would be considered within motorized experience Level 3.

208/0161

I don't think you should restrict overnight camping at Redinger and Kerchhoff Lakes.

See response to 208/0080.

208/1362

There seems to be a demand for gas sales and developments which recognize heavy motorboat and waterski use. Letting people transport their own fuel in and out of Redinger Lake in the dry and hazardous fire danger area is not a safe or wise decision. I would like to propose that there should be a small facility available to obtain gas to keep the fire hazard down at Redinger, and telephone facilities

See response to 208/0080.

208/1640

I believe Redinger Lake should have some developed recreation facilities established to accommodate public use.

See response to 208/0080.

208/1862

I would like you to consider spending a little bit more money to put a few campsites in, so we can enjoy Redinger Lake. Include a few Camp grounds, and some restrooms with showers in your plan.

See response to 208/0080.

209-DINKEY CREEK

209/1130

A recreation management plan should be developed for the Dinkey Creek area with emphasis on protection of its resources.

The Dinkey Creek area has been identified as needing comprehensive recreation management. The Forest will place this project with others on the Forest objectives list and will complete it over the next ten years.

You should take this opportunity to place the Dinkey Creek area into a special area which will insure its protection from dam projects. Dinkey Creek corridor needs a firm management plan that will insure its continued natural beauty.

See Responses to 209/1533 and 200/0017

209/1533, 1786 & 1381

The only "new" developed recreational site we propose is the Dinkey Creek corridor. The area should be designated "family and youth oriented developed camping area." This would preserve a unique and heavily used area of family and youth camps.

The revised Plan will treat the Dinkey Creek area as a "river corridor" instead of a "lake oriented" viewshed. The area will remain designated as a family/youth oriented developed recreation area.

209/1631

I commend your designation of the Dinkey Creek further planning area as a no timber harvest area. Road building must be stopped in this area.

The direction for the Dinkey Lake Further Planning has been decided by the 1984 Congress. 85,180 acres of the planning area will go into wilderness. The remaining 29,130 acres is general forest and will be managed for dispersed recreation with no scheduled timber harvest.

209/1669

I think you should restrict boat speeds or motor size/type on Dinkey Reservoir.

The Dinkey project has been withdrawn from consideration. Dinkey Reservoir will not be constructed.

220-DISPERSED RECREATION

220/0003

Area 61, west of Crown Valley and Statum Meadow, should not be designated general forest. I would support a designation of dispersed recreation for the area.

Forest staff felt that Area 61 most correctly fits its present category of general forest. Alternative A provides for more dispersed recreation (no harvest - 42,210 acres) than under any other alternative.

220/0114

It's a good idea to provide parking for snow play, snowmobiling, and cross-country ski areas. It would keep people from parking in places where flowers and plants might be damaged. Sanitation facilities would help to remind people to throw their trash in garbage cans and not litter. I don't think land disturbing activities should be scheduled, but if they are, provide protection for trails and OHV's.

Thank you for your comment.

220/0178

How are you planning to rehabilitate dispersed recreation areas?

Dispersed recreation areas will be rehabilitated within the guidelines of existing proposed ROS classes.

220/1125

I would support leaving management Area 19 as dispersed recreation. Area 19 combined with management Area 18 is the only "semiprimitive" area left on the forest to take our guests to on extended trips.

Area 18 is dispersed, and there are no plans to change it. However, area 19 was designated general forest because of other multiple use values.

220/1222

I support many aspects of the proposed plan, including the designation of substantial areas for dispersed recreation and the recommendations for WSR system.

Thank you for your comment.

Unit 61 should be managed for dispersed recreation as provided in the amenity alternative, with little or no timber harvest. That area should be part of the John Muir Wilderness.

Analysis Area 61 has been released by the California Wilderness Act of 1984 and designated for multiple use management. The Forest Service will determine what type of management activities will be allowed to occur through the environmental analysis process. Approximately 41% of the Forest is now wilderness. The supply of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities is adequate with respect to the projected demand for the planning period.

220/1267

The main canyon of Merced River, as well as the South Fork canyon should be designated as a "dispersed recreation-no timber harvest area."

South Fork canyon has been changed to dispersed recreation with no timber harvest.

220/1269

We support the designation of the Dinkey Creek area as dispersed recreation.

Dinkey Lakes is designated as dispersed recreation; Dinkey Creek as general forest.

220/1533

The most practical category for recreational use is nondeveloped recreation. The Plan properly emphasizes nondeveloped recreational use. We would like an adequately maintained network of trails, which the Plan does not provide for.

The proposed Land and Resource Management Plan provides for a moderate expansion of the trail system with more intensive maintenance and management to meet dispersed recreation standards.

An increase in dispersed recreation will be necessary under projected future growth. They should be managed under strict guidelines. Create new protected areas.

The Forest Plan states that "dispersed recreation will be emphasized to provide a wide spectrum of recreational opportunities." The ROS class objectives will be used to provide a mix of opportunity classes which the Forest will strive to reach or maintain under this Plan.

220/1642

I wouldn't like to see dispersed recreation on the north side of Merced River, but what is happening now is worse. At least a campground could be enforced.

The only way to restrict dispersed camping is to designate the area as a developed recreation area. The management of the area adjacent to the Merced River will be determined by the Merced Wild and Scenic Implementation Plan. The public will be invited to participate in the planning of this area.

220/1658

Analysis area 3 should be expanded to include the area from Iron Mountain to Rush Creek. This area is so close to the proposed Wild River segment of South Fork Merced that no timber harvest should be allowed. The OHV 4WD route from the end of the Jerseydale Road to Hites Cove should be closed and converted to a foot and horse trail. I am opposed to the construction of bridges across South Fork. I also feel that analysis area 19 should be put in management Area 11.

The Hite Cove 4WD road already exists and is one of the few routes available to OHV users at this end of the Forest. Since the 4WD road is a preexisting use to the W/S designation, the use will remain. However, the final strategy concerning the water crossing will be determined by the Forest planning. See response to 220/1125 regarding Area 19.

220/1667

Backpacking and other forms of dispersed forest recreation should soon displace timber harvesting as the biggest forest use, especially as urban areas continue to grow.

Regardless of which activity is the biggest, Congress requires the Forest to provide for multiple use of all resources.

220/1775

I am glad that you do not plan to harvest trees in management Area II. Trees should not be harvested right up to the west boundary, especially if the economics of the venture are questionable.

Thank you for your support.

220/1787

Grizzly Creek should be designated as "dispersed recreation," as proposed in Alt. D, not as a "general forest." Only that designation can protect the extensive trail systems in the area. The extensive strip cuts made in the past, the piling and burning of the soils and more recent harvest activities and the almost nonexistent regeneration will severely limit production from this unit for many generations. Just give it a rest.

See response to 220/1125.

220/1790

I support trail systems and maintenance, and moving trails out of meadows. I do NOT support the use of motorized vehicles, bicycles or pack animals in the back country, and encourage phasing out such activities over the next 10 years.

Thank you for your comment. These are all legitimate uses in our dispersed recreation areas, and will continue until public demand indicates a change is needed. However, these uses are not allowed in wilderness except the use of pack animals.

221-EQUESTRIAN/HIKING TRAILS

221/0206

I would encourage the establishment and maintenance of more trails for hiking and horseback riding.

The Plan provides for moderate increases in road and trail construction. Extensive new trails need significant increases in funds for construction and maintenance. The Forest has been unable to effectively maintain the existing trail system with funding provided. Partially due to this fact, only a moderate increase in construction was deemed appropriate.

221/0272

I hope that OHVs, both wheeled and snow travelers, would be separate from biking and equestrian trails.

Certain trails and OHV routes within the Forest are presently separated. The 12 designated OHV routes in the Forest, although open to all users, are mostly used by OHVs and it would be impractical to provide separate trail systems. Through proper courtesy and signing, hikers, equestrians, mobilized vehicles and mountain bikes should be able to use most Forest trails.

221/1246

As for trails, I can see that to maintain the current trails is a problem, let alone build new ones. Why not establish a program of using volunteers from local conservation groups, thus saving money and maintaining the trail at a fraction of the cost of paying several employees.

This is a good suggestion and the Forest has "Adopt-A-Trail" agreements with numerous individuals and groups. This program can be expanded.

222-MOUNTAIN BIKES

222/1695

I caution you to take another look at how mountain bikes are destroying the soils of mountain ecology. Have the courage to say no to activities that are inherently destructive in nature.

A plan will be developed, as needed, to manage bicycle use in mountainous areas outside of wilderness.

222/1762

We propose that the Forest Service establish a program of using volunteers from local conservation groups and other interested organizations to "adopt" trails in the Forest. Having annual trail repairing or building trips directed by Forest Service personnel. Such a program should be included in the Plan.

See response to 221/1246.

223-CROSS-COUNTRY/SKIING TRAILS

223/1684

I have no problem with the concept of designated cross-country ski routes. I might even go so far as to approve of backcountry warming huts, if they did not impact other values.

Thank you for your comment.

225-HIKING/BACKPACKING

225/0214

Hiking trails and Wilderness areas mean a lot to me. California has many Wilderness users to support, and many real Wilderness areas are getting quite congested. This is hard on these areas and compromises the purpose of wilderness usage.

The plan provides for managing wilderness to meet recreational, scenic, educational, conservational and historic uses, as well as preserving the wilderness character. It also provides for new trails, as needed, to prevent resource damage or to aid in visitor dispersal.

225/0226

A more valuable, more responsible emphasis would increase budgets for trails.

See response to 221/0206.

225/0236, 0239, 0221 & 0211

I support trail building and maintenance.

See response to 221/0206.

230-INTERPRETATIVE SERVICE/ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

230/0152

I agree with S&G #10, because we need more information centers.

Thank you for your support.

230/0156

I agree with S&G #327. You should provide interpretive services

Thank you for your support.

230/1213

Pleased to note that visitor information and interpretive services will be expanded. More visitors are inquiring about visitor programs and seem to be more interested in the environment than ever before.

Thank you for your support.

230/1790

I support the direction the Forest Service has taken over the past years in matters of fire and erosion control, restoration of damaged areas, and pest control.

Thank you for your support.

240-OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES

240/0089, 1148, 1212, 1605, 1684, 1690, 1700, 1815, 1817 & 1822

I would like OHV use eliminated, with the exception of those used by rangers and rescue teams. They might be fun, but I don't think they should be used in the national forests.

Your input was considered in the preparation of the Final Plan. The Forest Plan limits OHV use to roads and trails. The Forest OHV Plan will determine which roads and trails are to be designated. You are invited to participate in the public involvement phase of the OHV planning process.

240/0105

I don't think you should allow motor bikes in the Forest. You should have people out there to enforce the laws, so the Forest stays beautiful.

The use and regulation of motor bikes will be determined by the Forest OHV Plan. See response to 240/0089

240/0113

I like your idea about widening the trails and improving the scenery. What I don't like is the amount of space you provide for OHVs.

See response to 240/1418.

240/0218

There should be as much wilderness protected from OHV use as possible.

OHVs are not permitted in designated wilderness areas.

240/0272

I would hope OHVs both 2&4 WD would be separate from hiking and equestrian trails.

See response to 221/0272.

240/0282 & 1537

We oppose any further expansion of OHV trails, roads, and areas. We would like to see a reduction in OHV use. We are concerned about the rumor of OHV routes all through the Forest similar to the old "Ponderosa Way." I have seen the destruction caused in those areas.

The State of California has expressed a desire to have a North-South OHV route through California. This does not mean that an entirely new route would be built. In many places existing roads/trails of all types would be utilized to connect this N-S route. Very little new route construction is anticipated, although a definite route has not been selected.

240/0353, 0464, 1071, 1737, 0972, 1737, 0972, 1057, 1809, 1811, 1055, 0090 & 0212

We support limiting recreational OHV use to designated routes. We feel you should reconsider the lack of programs for enforcing OHV restrictions. There must be methods to enforce proposed limits. This needs to be an integral part of the budget to make it viable.

The development of a Forest OHV Plan will include the means for regulation and control. Due to recent legislation, enforcement of OHV regulations and Forest OHV Plan restrictions may be partially financed through green sticker grants. OHV groups policing their own members and reminding other users of our regulations also may help.

240/0993 & 1381

I strongly support restricting the use of OHVs to designated roads and trails. OHV abuse of the Forest is readily apparent. The Plan needs to address the snow/vegetation compaction, noise and speed problems associated with snowmobiles.

The Plan limits OHV use to designated roads and trails.

We recognize that there are problems with snowmobiles. The environmental documents for the Forest OHV Plan should address snow/vegetation compaction. Noise and speed problems associated with snowmobiles should be controlled by the enforcement of current state laws.

240/1148

Those who bring vehicles on roadless or wilderness areas ought to be prosecuted. Your plan to keep all OHVs on routes and to prohibit cross-country travel is a step in the right direction. If you can enforce the rule, then I accept the increase in the mileage of OHV trails, but not otherwise.

See response to 240/0353. OHV's are not permitted in designated wilderness areas.

240/1412

To make the OHV ban enforceable, budget allowances for expenses should be included.

See response to 240/0353.

240/1418

No OHV trails should be built and those which have harmful effects on the forest environment should be closed. Designated OHV trails should be well marked and a clear, easy-to-read map of their locations should be developed. Off-roaders should not be allowed to ruin the Forest. They should be confined to designated areas.

Major changes now proposed as part of this plan are to restrict OHV travel to designated routes or areas. The Forest will discontinue unrestricted cross-country travel at the lower elevations.

240/1528

The new OHV standards are great. How are you going to be able to implement the controls without proper vehicles or enough personnel?

See response to 240/0353.

240/1533

The Plan proposes to restrict OHVs. This is an excellent idea, because it will protect sensitive resources and wildlife habitat. Restriction of OHVs to designated routes is the means to provide such opportunities. We find no specific reference to budget levels for enforcement of the proposed restrictions. Budgetary planning should include specific methods of funding OHV restriction enforcement. Alternatives B,D,& E are not acceptable because they allow resource damage and erosion to occur

See response to 240/0353.

240/1654

I can see the benefits of improving and building OHV roads, as well as authorizing their increased use in the forests. It will facilitate access for the marijuana grower.

The Forest Service, in cooperation with many law enforcement agencies from special funding through federal laws, has a very active program of seek and destroy operations of marijuana fields and arrest of the growers. Most fields are located in very difficult terrain and are not accessible from OHV roads.

240/1660

The invasion of OHVs is whittling away at the Forest. They are destroying our soil surfaces. The destruction of the soil is directly proportional to the power applied. Treads formed from OHV use in heavy rainfall areas, causing water run off, lead to severe erosion. The Forest Service shouldn't forget its primary job, which is to preserve the Forest in its natural state.

There are S&Gs that state if soil erosion or other harmful effects occur from OHV use, the Plan will be reviewed for modification.

I have calculated that we have the potential of 225 million recreation hours. This is based on the total number of OHVs, and the estimate of how many hours per year each vehicle would be used, as put forth in the publication entitled "Off Road Vehicles On Public Lands."

Through the interdisciplinary process, a strategy similar to what you noted has been used. While you have quantified your strategy, we have taken a more general approach. For further involvement in the future of OHVs, please be aware of public involvement to our OHV Plan.

240/1797 & 1669

We find the Preferred Plan to be inadequate, misleading, and inconsistent. It fails to recognize the needs of this organization. None of Alternative A is acceptable, except possibly your current management direction shown as Alternative B. The one that offers the most OHV routes is Alternative E, but here again, the lack of information in the document leaves us concerned and confused.

The Forest direction related to designated routes will be identified in the Forest's future OHV plan, which will be completed within three years.

First of all, DEIS Table 2.24 shows 249 miles of OHV trails in 1982 with a decrease to 198 miles by the first decade, allowing for some trail loss from them during the period. The Plan implies on pp. 3-3 & 4-19 that essentially all open areas in the Forest will be changed to designated routes, which will place the entire Forest in either a restricted or closed OHV category. There is absolutely no justification for this standard and would be grounds for appeal, if implemented.

You are correct in your references to Table 2.24, page 3-3 and page 4-19. However, the Final Plan states, "Some additional OHV routes will be designated in areas where cross-country travel was previously allowed." This is the area of the Forest west of the old Watershed Protection Zone. These routes will probably be identified during the development of the Forest OHV Plan, which is being funded by a green sticker grant.

Page 3-12 of the Plan did not indicate any significant soil erosion problems in the Forest nor is it a critical issue to be considered in the Plan. The water quality program addresses the subject to be monitored, but we see no evidence or reports of serious soil erosion. In this case, we contend that soil erosion is not a significant factor (long term damage) from past operations of OHV in the Forest.

Soil loss resulting in erosion, reduced land productivity, and siltation of streams and lakes is specifically mentioned in Section 4.5.2.1 of the Draft Plan. This S&G stated that the Forest's OHV Plan will be reviewed for modification if there is loss of soil or vegetation resulting in reduced land productivity."

S&G 11 and 12 provide direction for moderate increases in road and trail construction by about 15% by the year 2000. We contend this figure is low and simply represents the standard projections of 1%/year. In contrast, 4WD sales have more than doubled in recent years, and within time, the impact on forest lands will be significant. Forest wide goals do not specifically provide for the increases in dispersed recreation for OHV users. Table 4.02 of the Plan shows an increase of 40 miles of OHV trails in 50 years, with a significant reduction in open OHV areas. In the same time dispersed recreation outputs show an increase from 2095 MRVD to 3330 MRVD which are not in the interest of OHV. This table needs to be explained better

Doubling of 4WD sales does not necessarily equate to doubling of demand or use of Forest lands. Much increased use will be occurring on land outside of the Forest, both by choice and necessity. The Forest will strive to accommodate use in balance with other resources.

Table 4 07 in the DEIS associates 20 miles of designated (restricted) ORV route with 567,600 acres of land. This amounts to 28,380 acres per miles of ORV trails. We consider that a 4WD route with 300 feet on each side would only influence about 75 acres per mile. This table is extremely misleading in this regard and needs clarification. At the same time, Table 2.38 states semi-primitive

motorized experience will be in short supply due to small acreages available. Therefore, Tables 4.07 and 2.38 contradict each other and represents a serious oversight.

Table 4 07 included all lands up to 30% slope that could be used for OHV located outside wilderness and within the Forest. Table 2.38 was incorrect and should refer to semiprimitive non-motorized which will be in short supply.

It appears that the ORV user will come out on the short end as usual and that inadequate planning has been provided for semi-primitive motorized recreation in the plan. The RVD capacity associated with semi-primitive motorized appears to be rather low as compared to primitive and semi-primitive figures in the tables in Appendix G. We assume that the tables do not take into consideration the changes from "open" ORV areas to "restricted" ORV areas that are proposed, which accordingly would dramatically change the estimates shown in the tables. We contend there is more than ample land and potential to increase the capacity closer to demand levels shown in Figure G-4.

We agree, and feel there is ample land to develop OHV routes throughout the Forest. Approximately half the Forest will be used to accommodate OHV use on designated trails, plus all Maintenance Level II roads will be open unless designated closed.

240/1807

I feel that bike trails should be built into the South Fork Merced Canyon. This would be in keeping with California Fish and Game Management of the fishery as an official State Wild Trout Stream, where the "primitive quality of the angling experience" is maintained. Also, this area is adjacent to Yosemite National Park, so scenic values in the adjoining Forest lands should be maintained as a buffer.

Better trail access is planned for South Fork Merced River. The visual quality objectives will be managed as stated in the Plan under the headings, Visual Resources and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

241-TWO WHEEL VEHICLES

241/1797

There is a distinct difference among motorcycles, 4WD vehicles, and snowmobile routes. The documents fail to segregate the various types of use and mileage associated with the 198 miles of OHV trails. The Plan does not tell us which routes will be developed, added, or closed.

The Forest OHV Plan, funded by the green sticker funds, will identify specifically which route fits each category

242-FOUR WHEEL VEHICLES

242/1142

I hope that you will restrict snowmobiles to a limited number of areas.

Snowmobile use will be limited to those areas mentioned in the Plan.

242/1863 & 1696

We lost 2.4 miles of the Red Lake Trail last year. Instead of the loggers using only 50 ft. one way or another, they wiped out the trail. We won't know what the Forest Service is up to, with this 7-year plan unless we start digging through all their paperwork.

S&G #15 in Section 4.5.2.1 of the Draft Plan provides for protection and retainment of trails and OHV routes when land disturbing activities are planned. Also, timber sale contract clauses provide for the protection of improvements, such as trails and fences. One of the reasons for rerouting is that less disturbance is caused to the land. A "keep open" provision is available for these contracts.

243-DESIGNATED ROUTES

243/1696

I don't think you should have visitor use permits on OHV routes. Alternative A doesn't explain how a permit system would work. With so little information, I must oppose any permit system.

The permit system may or may not be implemented. If it is, it would only be for authorized events. Determination of need and process will be analyzed in the Forest OHV plan.

Alternative A doesn't allow for cross-country travel. Therefore, all existing routes inventoried and those not must remain open. You must show reason for closure on any route you want to close. Closure should be a last resort to land management problems.

The Forest OHV Plan will address the issue of existing routes, new routes, and areas. See response to 241/1797.

243/1814 & 1333

OHVs should be restricted to a few designated trails. The riders show an appalling disregard for the environment, which they litter upon and erode. Why bring noise and pollution to the few quiet places left?

Thank you for your comment. See response to 240/0089.

243/1817

The OHV route between Dinkey Lakes and the John Muir Wilderness is particularly obnoxious and should be closed.

The California Wilderness Act of 1984 provided for retention of the existing OHV route between Dinkey Lakes and John Muir Wilderness expansion which has been in place and used for several years.

245-EVENTS

245/0921

When jeeps, 3 wheelers, motorcycles and such are given permission to have their hill climbs on USDAFS lands we feel that this is not in the best interest of fish, wildlife and the beauty of the river water.

The Plan limits recreational activities involving OHV use to established or approved routes. Any additional events must meet specific guidelines and will only be approved if they meet environmental concerns.

246-IRON MOUNTAIN TRAIL

246/0040

Your proposal regarding the use of Iron Creek trail is not appropriate for the limited campsites that the trail accesses at the South Fork. This site is already impacted and vehicles clearly interfere with the quality of the wilderness experience. Motorized travel should be avoided at all costs. Why start a problem that doesn't exist

See response to 246/0193.

246/0193

The south fork of the Merced between the highway at Wawona and highway 140 is not a very long stretch. If one takes the effort to hike down the canyon, why should one be subject to horse manure on the trail and the noise of trailbikes?

The Forest Service OHV Plan, yet to be completed, and/or the Comprehensive Management Plan to be written on South Fork Merced will determine the future of motorized use on the Iron Mountain Trail

I have hiked to the South Fork on the Iron Mountain trail and I would like to feel future generations will be able to see the area as I have; without any "improvements."

Thank you for your comment.

246/0282

I am especially concerned about the Granite Creek area of Chowchilla Mountain.

There has been approval to create a National OHV route from Mexico to the Canadian border. It will pass through the Sierra National Forest, but we do not know the exact location at this time. We are in the process of developing an OHV plan for the Forest. This will determine where the route will go. We will be asking for public involvement for this plan in the very near future. The Forest will welcome your participation with us at that time

246/0286

Trout fishing has been okay, but seems lower than what it is in roadless areas. Motorized access is resulting in too high a harvest for this relatively infertile stream. Motorized vehicles should not be permitted on trails along the river, particularly the trail section from Iron Creek to Bishop Creek.

See response to 246/0193

246/1371, 1231, 1282, 1700, 1733, & 1550

The Merced Canyon Committee opposes the creation of the Iron Creek Motorcycle Trail. This would represent a new use for this trail and the Devil's Gulch Roadless Area. Moreover the proposed trail is in the South Fork "wild" river corridor proposed in the Plan. New motorized access in wild river areas is generally incompatible with Forest Service policy and guidelines and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Enforcement of this area would be very difficult since it's so remote.

See response to 246/0193.

246/1825

I only have one problem I'd like to address. It concerns the Iron Mountain motorcross trail. There is a potential conflict if the preferred alternative does come to fruition with South Fork Merced being included in the WSR status. There are two options: 1- move the trail, 2- change the designation for that one section of the river.

See response to 246/0193.

250-RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM

250/1581

We urge the Forest to refrain from attempting to integrate the ROS system into recreation planning, as it is impractical as a management tool.

The preparation of the Forest Plan is required by the Forest Service and RPA, as amended by the NFMA. Assessment of the Forest Plan's environmental impacts is required by NEPA and the implementing regulations of NFMA. The ROS class system was designated to meet these regulations.

The DEIS expresses a concern for the "decline" of ROS primitive class areas. This concern on the part of the planners inspired the buffer zone configuration of Analysis areas 46, 48, 52, and 66 in Management Area 11. We urge that the Mgmt. Area 11 classification be eliminated from the Plan.

We have revised Alternative A with regards to Management Area 11. Alternative A has Analysis Areas 48, 52 and 66 as Dispersed Recreation. Timber harvesting is only allowed on suitable lands and roads are closed following harvesting activities. Analysis Area 46 is now Developed Recreation. Management Area 11 will be retained throughout the first planning period.

250/1804

I found the Plan's ROS map amusing. It clearly shows the general lack of utility of the ROS System, especially for assigning management to lands.

See response to 250/1581.

260-ROADS

260/0464

A dirt road leads to the dam and Chilkoot Lake. There is no direct vehicle access to Pick-Up Ditch. Because regulations on vehicle use are more restrictive in Management Area 2 than in Management Area 4, we request a boundary between management areas be drawn so the road and lake are included in Area 4.

We agree, we will move the boundary so that the road and lake are in Area 4.

260/1212 & 1719

The Forest should be applauded for maintaining several released areas in natural roadless condition and restricting OHV's to designated roads and trails. Although road construction and reconstruction is scheduled to decrease by 51% in the first 10 years, this does not preclude the construction of 147.8 miles of new logging roads. Road building should be curtailed further.

The level of new road construction in the Plan includes only those miles needed to achieve the planned outputs. Improved access is required to obtain outputs specified in the Plan in such areas as timber harvesting and recreation. Most of the roads will be local, meaning, they will access relatively small areas needed for a particular project.

260/1301

Will traffic impacts be mitigated by mid-week use, dispersed arrivals and departures, and the use of transit for out-of-valley visitors?

No current plans for new transit from the valley exist. We anticipate continued weekend peaks due to recreation traffic, but the Forest Development Road System is not currently experiencing excessive congestion.

260/1383

The best way to hold down erosion is to hold down road construction. A sufficient road network to get into and out of the forest already exists. Standards for new construction should be for minimal facilities.

Road standards will be minimal and BMP's (Best Management Practices) will be used to hold down erosion. Only roads needed to accomplish the Plan objectives will be constructed.

260/1417

I strongly support the planned reduction in road building by 50%.

Thank you for your support.

260/1658

Alternative A is acceptable

Thank you for your comment.

260/1790

I support a moratorium on road building, maintaining existing roads, keeping public use as is, or reducing public access. Trail heads should not go further into the mountains. You might even consider pulling some back.

See response to 260/1212

260/1806

There must be a way to identify which roads, types of roads and or areas that are to be chosen.

Determining actual road locations and specifying road standards are project level decisions. This level of specificity goes far beyond the scope of forest planning. Roads will be monitored for compliance with S&Gs.

261-CLOSURES

261/1213

We would like to see the forest adopt a policy of gating all dirt roads during winter to prevent damage to roads.

Some roads are gated during winter to prevent unacceptable resource damage. This policy does not apply to all dirt roads, however. On roads where we do not have that level of damage we will continue to allow public access.

261/1669

I am in total agreement with Standard and Guideline #192. We feel no new roads should remain open to vehicular traffic if there are no specifically discernable and defensible destinations. We would add "Closure maps will be kept current and readily available to the public. Closure periods and purposes will be clearly indicated".

New or existing roads may be closed for the purposes listed in S&G #192 of the Draft Plan. Roads will remain open to public use, however, where those situations do not exist.

S&G #51 is a very good provision, but should be expanded. The gating off of dirt roads will insure a greater degree of safety for our wildlife.

See response to 261/1213.

261/1841

Restrictions such as road closures that are paid for from general funds authorized by Congress and paid for by taxes are a major concern of sportsmen.

See response to 261/1669.

261/1842

We have let them close roads on us every day. We can't even get into the Forest to just drive through the beautiful country and look at it. The land has been there for years. Are we going to let them close it off? Shouldn't we be able to use it?

See response to 261/1669

262-IMPROVEMENTS/MAINTENANCE

262/0087

S&G #336 states that no roads other than highways will be improved to provide for faster movement for recreational traffic. This will lessen the amount of recreational drivers to the park, lowering the amount of visitors to the forest.

Please note that this direction only applies to timber areas in Management Area 4, and only the forest development roads in those areas. The park does not rely on these roads for access. The standard of these roads will not effect park visitors. There could be an effect on Forest recreational drivers. It would be more accurate, however, to state that increased use will not grow as fast in these areas, rather than lower the amount of visitors.

262/1285

I would like to see the Forest recommend that Kaiser Pass Road be left in its present alignment. I would be opposed to any plan which would allow the road to be widened or realigned in any way.

There are no plans to widen or realign the Kaiser Pass Road. We plan on maintaining that road generally in its current condition, though some improvements may be made for public safety.

262/1393

I would like to see if we could fix the Mammoth Pool Road.

The improvement of this road is a project level decision, and beyond the scope of the Forest Plan.

262/1711

I have several concerns under this plan. With respect to the transportation systems that are planned, I would like to see the level of upkeep maintained in order to keep this system functional. Continual upgrading of forest infrastructure will not only decrease commercial hauling cost, but will also allow recreation oriented visitors access to additional areas

We will continue to develop and maintain the forest development road system. We upgrade the system as economics, resource use, protection and funding allows.

263-CONFLICTS WITH OTHER USES

263/0090

Why do you make roads going around marshes, meadows, etc.

We agree with you. As we adhere to BMPs and S&G, new road locations will avoid these areas.

263/0178

Who is paying for all the construction going on? Is most of it being donated, or is it coming out of my pocket?

Most new roads are typically constructed to gain access to timber stands and are funded from timber receipts. Other construction, such as campgrounds, are funded from tax dollars.

263/1798

Additional road construction for such activities as timber cutting, hydroelectric power generation, and recreation should be kept to a minimum in areas frequented by mountain lions and/or their prey species. Roads and road building are very disruptive to wildlife habitat. In addition, they can be used by poachers to reach previously inaccessible areas.

The impact of road construction on wildlife will be considered as we prepare project plans. Giving direction for specific projects as to how to best protect these and other species is beyond the scope of the Forest Plan. S&Gs, however, give adequate direction to the project planners to protect various wildlife species.

270-SOCIAL/POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

270/0182

Many Indians work in the woods and at the mill. If you take their land and jobs away, what do they have?

The Preferred Alternative includes a reduced harvest level that will result in a loss of jobs. This may impact a portion of the Native American community. The consequence of job loss and potential adverse affect on Native Americans was considered in determining the ASQ along with other objectives such as protecting soils, watersheds, fish and wildlife habitat and riparian zones. The ASQ in the Plan is a balance between maximizing timber production on land capable and suitable for timber production and maintaining and enhancing amenity values.

270/1002

Your identification involving the high level of residents existing below the poverty level is laudable. You make no effort to identify the cause of that unfortunate situation or of potential courses of action which the Forest Service might take locally in helping to relieve it. The DEIS should identify and discuss the effect of each alternative on the poverty level in the local areas.

Identification of the causes of poverty for the region is well beyond the scope and intent of this Plan. Although the Forest Service is sensitive to the poverty issue, there are other Federal and State agencies (including some USDA agencies) whose mission is to identify and assist those in poverty. The Plan has discussed benefits which occur to all populations from the alternatives because of receipts added to federal, state, and local government programs. Alternatives returning fewer receipts would indirectly benefit poverty programs less. However, there is no direct relationship between receipts produced and specific programs that address poverty.

Identification of social groups seems to suffer the classic "apples and oranges" syndrome. Two of the groups are based on time in residence, two on their recreational use of the forest, and a fifth on ethnic origin. It is unclear as to how such a wide set of variables can be used as a basis for comparison between groups. What decisions were made based on the grouping? It would help the reviewer understand if you would expand the discussion about personal interviews.

The five social groups identified in the DEIS are composed of distinctive sets of the Forest's principal users identified from various sources: Forest planning records, land use patterns, and the public scoping process. Each population set represented has essentially similar lifestyles, attitudes, beliefs, and values, particularly with respect to how they use and view the Forest. These translate into their expectations of how the Forest should best be managed. It was assumed that these groups were not mutually exclusive. Minorities are also expected to occur within each group.

No specific decision was predicated entirely on its effect on a particular social group. Instead, social group expectations were used to examine some of the broad scale implications of various alternatives. Since these social groups represent distinctive populations, different management strategies will affect them in different ways. Each alternative has both beneficial and detrimental effects on a group. The general effects of each alternative on these social groups are described. The Preferred Alternative represents a balance between most competing social groups, by providing some moderate benefits to all groups.

Although some information used in the social group analysis was obtained from personal interviews, most of it was collected in conjunction with other project planning. Virtually all personal interviews were with Native Americans and were conducted by ethnographers in the development of the Forest's Cultural Resources Overview or to aid planning for large hydroelectric projects in compliance with legislation. No known set of questions were used during these interviews. Their main objective was to identify areas of cultural, traditional or religious importance to Native Americans

Table 3.03 lists 5 minority groups. When added to 74% listed as white, the population segments total 129%. Interestingly, the Hispanic percentage is the amount by which the total exceeds 100%. This raises many questions: Are Hispanics scattered through the other groups? How many Hispanics are there? How will their proper identification affect the other percentage? Table 3.03 needs either major revision and/or expansion.

Thank you for pointing out our error. Table 3.03 has been corrected.

Of five identifiable minority groups only one, Native American, receives any recognition in the discussion. We recognize that you are required by law to analyze the Plan's potential effects on Indians, but does lack of specific legislative direction justify ignoring the others?

Non-Native American minorities have not been described in greater detail because the intent of the discussion was only to provide background information. The focus of the social environment section is not on minority groups. Instead it is on identifiable "social groups" that most likely would be affected by management directions expressed in the alternatives. Most minority groups, with the exception of Native Americans, are probably distributed throughout the other four social groups. Native Americans form a distinctive group because they have a long history of cultural and traditional ties to the Forest. Some of these ties are of a religious nature.

270/1790

I support restricted air lanes over the Sierra to minimize noise impact.

Thank you for your input. The Forest Service continues to seek cooperation from military authorities

270/1836

I think it is important that the social and economic considerations be given as much weight in Forest planned decisions as our environmental concerns. But, it appears in the last 10 years that the Forest Service has focused more on environmental issues, real and imagined, with little thought to the social and economical consequences of their decisions

Social and economic effects are evaluated in the EIS as required by National Environmental Policy Act and National Forest Management Act regulations. While both social and economic effects are important, the two acts direct the Forest to treat all effects on resources equally. The Record of Decision describes the rationale for the decisions made for this Plan.

272-OPPORTUNITIES FOR HANDICAPPED

272/0115, 0163 & 0174

I'm pleased about what you are doing for handicapped and disabled people. I'm equally pleased about what you are doing about the ski resorts. I think one of the main issues is pollution. What are you doing to control pollution in our Forest?

The Forest is committed to removing as many obstacles as possible, especially in developed recreation sites, which otherwise prevent handicapped and disabled people from using and enjoying the Forest.

We agree that pollution is an increasing problem. Our strategy for controlling pollution is to concentrate on those activities that are sources of pollution--timber operations, hydroelectric development, recreational developments, and summer home sites. We have been effective in reducing the sources of pollution and rectifying unacceptable conditions when they are identified. Although our efforts have been very successful, we are increasing our efforts and commitment to reduce the risk.

The Forest has trained some resource specialists in the treatment of hazardous waste and chemical spills treatment so we will be prepared to move quickly if necessary. We intend to increase management presence in our wilderness to ensure that these pristine and fragile areas are not overly used and subjected to degradation from littering and contamination of the water. One of the most effective means we have of controlling pollution is public education. We will continue to educate the public on how to preserve the Forest environment. We are confident that our continuing efforts will yield some of the same positive results as in the past.

272/1177

We would like to take this opportunity to offer some criticism concerning the proposed Plan. It is very apparent that the handicapped individuals were completely ignored and forgotten when assessment of needs was compiled. We will make some recommendations and goals that CAPH has identified which need insertion into the Plan.

One of the Plan's broad management goals and objectives is to encourage use of the Forest by handicapped persons. This goal and objective is common to all alternatives. It is Forest Service policy to identify and reduce barriers to handicapped persons wherever possible. All proposed developed recreation sites will address provisions for handicapped access to facilities. As existing facilities are rehabilitated, barriers will be eliminated wherever possible, and features adopted to facilitate use. Your suggestion that handicapped access could be accelerated through donations of funds and services is an excellent proposal. The Forest Service looks forward to developing a partnership between groups such as the California Association of Physically Handicapped and other committed groups and organizations

Natural or asphalt pathways to individual camp sites and restroom areas would be very helpful to handicapped individuals. We would like to see modification of existing facilities to accommodate a shower within the confines of the rest area, and the installation of a large heat lamp. We propose the hardening of the earth to accommodate those in wheelchairs or on crutches. Picnic tables need to be modified to facilitate wheelchairs as well

Some of your recommendations for increasing handicapped person access or enhancing public facilities to accommodate use may be considered on a site specific basis, depending upon future recreational developments. Partnerships between the Forest Service and organizations willing to commit necessary funds and services would be an effective means of timely implementation of improvements. The Forest is committed to resolving access problems where they exist, especially when such improvements integrate well with other program elements.

273-OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITIES

273/0087

S&G 177 and 178 are important for keeping our heritage strong.

Thank you for your support

280-SOILS/GEOLOGY

280/0178

What are land disturbing activities and how do you prevent them? How are dispersed recreation areas rehabilitated? What method is used for erosion control?

Land disturbance accompanies planned activities such as road building, skidding logs, and preparing sites for reforestation. Mitigations are incorporated into the individual projects to minimize negative impacts to soils.

Methods of soil rehabilitation in dispersed recreation areas include ripping compacted soils and installing drainage structures and energy dissipators to control water and reduce erosion. Some methods of erosion control for roads are cross ditches, rolling dips, road surfacing, and energy dissipators. The major method for erosion control within a timber harvest unit is maintenance of soil cover, such as the 50% cover requirements and the construction of cross ditches on skid trails to control water runoff.

280/0993

The Forest should use the Geographical Information System (GIS). Computer assisted GIS allows multiple overlays. Correlating unrelated/independent resources by GIS can reveal hidden information. Hidden information can save management time and money and contribute to a workable, adaptable plan with more solid justification. The soil reconnaissance survey by the Forest, which was to be completed by 1985, was not mentioned. The soils Sec. (3 13) generally treats soil in a cursory manner. If a good understanding of baseline data is shown, there will be less need for a defensive posture for management decisions.

The "Soil Survey of Sierra National Forest Area, California" was completed in 1985. The DEIS addresses the soils portion of the affected environment. This section refers to the Soil Survey and the major portion of information contained here was derived from the survey report. Specific soils and their capabilities, and suitability for timber and forage production are addressed. The Soil Survey Report was used when preparing the Plan. For example, the erosion hazard and soil sensitivity maps were put together using this information. The Soil Survey Report was prepared for long range planning, but it is also used for position statements and preliminary project planning.

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) holds the potential for speeding up the comparison of mapped data and the accuracy of identifying areas with special characteristics or management needs. While improved speed and accuracy are desirable, it does not mean that manual comparison of data or identification of special areas is unsatisfactory for accomplishing management needs. The value of GIS is recognized and under active development as part of the increased use of computers in forest management.

280/1658 & 1684

Alternative A is acceptable under Geology.

Thank you for your comment.

280/1682

Provisions of NFMA require a forestwide inventory of deteriorating watersheds from unacceptable cumulative impacts to determine the appropriateness of planning zones, prescriptions, and use patterns. Some of these impacts which separately might not cause major adverse effects include small clearcuts in two tributaries causing bank erosion in main streams. In the absence of sufficient data to the completion of the FMP-DEIS, either the studies need to be undertaken, or those underway completed, or worst case analysis must be required.

The possibility that a cumulative effect of management activities could cause degradation of watersheds is recognized. No adverse impact to water quality arising from cumulative effects was presently found under Alternative B, the current situation. The potential for cumulative watershed effects under other alternatives was evaluated by comparing their different scheduled levels of clearcut harvest to Alternative B. Clearcut harvesting within the General Forest Management Area represents the most intense and widespread management activity with the potential to cause disturbance on both sensitive and non-sensitive land. Therefore, those alternatives calling for clearcut harvesting equal to or less than current conditions should avoid incurring cumulative watershed effects. Direct assessment of cumulative watershed effects is done at the project planning level. The watersheds that encompass a project area are evaluated for the effect that past and planned management activities will have on water quality. If a cumulative watershed effect could occur, mitigation measures would be prescribed to reduce the effect to an acceptable level or if it could not be mitigated, the project would be deferred or canceled. This project level assessment process will, over time, provide for a direct assessment of the General Forest Management Area.

280/1806

Monitoring deficiencies include soil productivity. Five-year reporting is too long and will allow excessive damage. Greater quantification and baseline data is essential to raise the precision and validity of testing above the unsatisfactory mode.

Annual monitoring will be conducted on 10% of the major projects for five years. After five years of monitoring the projects will be reviewed to determine if the S&Gs are sufficient, or if additional mitigation is needed. At any time during the five years, if it is determined that the S&Gs are not adequate or, if significant change is needed for maintaining or improving soil productivity as per "indications for action" listed in the Plan, they will be adjusted/changed. Approximately 15,000 acres of detailed soil surveys are conducted annually to refine our baseline data.

281-SENSITIVE SOILS/HIGHLY EROSIIVE

281/1213

I think before anything is done to correct the erosion problem in Nichols Meadow, the most important thing to do, is to get the giant sequoia log carbon-dated.

The giant sequoia log exposed by the incised gully in the sediments forming Nichols Meadow was dated in 1987. Radiocarbon dating of a sample from this log yielded a date of 9,830 \pm 290 years. Wood from two other yellow pine logs were also dated. One log, at a depth of 11 feet, yielded a date of 10,010 \pm 300 years. The nearby second log was at a depth of six feet. It was dated at 2,185 \pm 80 years

281/1682

What amount of soil loss can be tolerated on different soils without reducing productivity?

Soil loss tolerances have not been established for upland soils because specific rates of soil formation from bedrock are not known. However, it is generally accepted that rates of soil formation from bedrock are too slow to justify soil loss tolerances equal to or more than one ton/acre/year. Ground cover requirements are recommended for soils on a project by project basis. These requirements will be monitored to determine if soil loss is approaching one ton/acre.

281/1807

A 1/2 mile wide corridor in the Wawona to Bishop Creek section of South Fork Merced should have it's recommended management prescription changed from intensive timber production to semiprimitive, nonmotorized without logging or OHV use. It is critical to protect the erodible, decomposed granite soil in order to protect watershed values.

It is unlikely that timber would ever be cut in the area of concern since the major portion of the corridor is in Yosemite National Park, and the remainder does not contain commercial timber. If trees were to be harvested, the effects of erosion would be mitigated by site specific soil recommendations to minimize soil erosion.

282-SOIL PRODUCTIVITY/COMPACTION

282/1669

An allotted number of residual forest fuels should remain on the cut unit to provide wildlife habitat and maintain soils. We recommend that, "all cull logs greater than 24" in diameter and 5 feet long be distributed randomly over the cut unit."

Site specific recommendations are made to leave duff, litter, and cull logs for wildlife habitat and to maintain soil productivity. We recognize the importance of leaving this material for soil productivity. S&Gs, along with site specific mitigation measures addressed in project EA's strive to protect materials important to soil productivity and wildlife

282/1682

The Forest needs acceptable methods of estimating timber productivity based on soil potential rather than site class. The Forest needs to recognize stress on timber productivity of two or more rotations.

Detailed soil surveys will give us the information needed to make these estimates. However, due to limited funding, it will be a few years before these surveys will be completed. We are presently being funded to survey 15,000 acres/year.

The second statement, which refers to "stress", is presumed to be concerned about the effect that several rotations could have on long-term soil productivity. The answer to this question will require long-term studies conducted by the research branch of the Forest Service and other research institutions such as universities. Studies of agricultural lands have pointed out the importance of soil erosion control, conserving soil organic matter, nutrients, and tilth by leaving crop residue and maintaining soil structure by minimizing soil compaction. The objective of the soil S&Gs and the indirect benefit of many BMPs is to provide these basic conservation measures for the Forest's soil. The Forest will monitor the adequacy of these management requirements through general field reviews and specific studies of soil characteristics following management activities.

282/1716

Long-term effects on land with a continued disturbance cycle, several clearcut cycles, clearcut harvesting on steep and arid slopes, and those acres with low productivity soils should be withdrawn from regeneration cut management.

There does not have to be a significant soil loss after a clearcut harvest. S&Gs protect water quality and soil productivity. Site specific recommendations for ground cover requirements are implemented to keep soil from moving off site and to protect soil productivity.

Special requirements are prescribed for projects on steep and arid slopes, and those with low-productivity soils. There is a minimum management requirement which limits disturbance on lands characterized by excessively steep slopes, very high erosion potential, or high instability, to no more than 5% per decade. Implementation of S&Gs minimize significant impairment of land productivity. Areas identified as marginal for reforestation are identified in the EA process and require special mitigation, while sites that cannot be regenerated are not harvested. Many such areas have been and will continue to be withdrawn from regeneration cutting and harvesting.

282/1806

The Plan recognizes that past management activities have degraded soil productivity. I am skeptical that this damage can be repaired other than over a very long period of time. Allowing tractor logging on highly erodible soils with slopes over 35% is an example of more bad planning.

Areas identified as having reduced productivity, due to compaction, removal of biomass, or displaced topsoil can be restored somewhat by ripping, fertilization and respreading topsoil, depending on causes. Productivity losses will be minimized in the future by following appropriate S&Gs

Most tractor logging is conducted on slopes under 35%. Some landforms within the Forest contain an intricate mixture of slopes under and over 35% within small areas. This complex topography may not allow for sufficient ground clearance for cable logging. During project planning these areas are evaluated by an interdisciplinary team to determine if BMPs can be accomplished and soil productivity maintained. Tractor skidding is then limited as much as possible to slopes under 35% and logs are cable endlined from the steeper slopes. In addition to standard erosion control practices other special mitigations may be prescribed for these areas. An example would be to require that more than 50% ground cover be left where the erosion hazard is high or very high.

290-SPECIAL AREAS

290/1470, 1815, 1418, 1775 & 1339

I commend you for your special areas that you would put aside for geology, botany, history, research, and the like.

We believe that by preserving these special biological or physical features, future generations of visitors will have a chance to enjoy or study these areas.

290/1520

We are pleased with two candidate RNAs. We concur with the Plan that RNA designations also are to be considered when the Forest has particular examples. The Forest should use terrestrial and aquatic community classifications. The Forest should determine which communities are present in the Forest and develop a list of communities. Interim management protection plans need to be included in the final plan. We support establishment of SIAs. We support the Forest for one botanical SIA Plan/DEIS.

As SIAs are discovered, the Forest will consider these candidate areas for inclusion into the SIA program. As these areas are approved for inclusion, establishment reports are prepared which will help to identify and protect the characteristic features of each of these special areas.

290/1658

Devils Peak Botanical Area is unique. Scientific use of the Bishop Creek RNA will require better trail maintenance

Trail maintenance in this RNA will be addressed in the Merced River Wild and Scenic River Plan. Normally, trail maintenance is not scheduled as often for a trail with very limited use. Much of the maintenance would occur through use of the trail itself

290/1684

I was very pleased to see the Special Management Areas proposed in Alternative A. Alternative E goes a step further and designates a 1,600 acre Devils Peak Botanical Area and 1,200 acre Heitz Meadow Research Natural Area. I certainly endorse the concept. If in doubt, take the conservative approach. If a natural habitat has unique and special qualities, it is far better to preserve them for future study, rather than spoil and exploit them

Devils Peak Botanical Area is established with approval of the Final Plan. Heitz Meadow Research Natural Area has been identified by the Forest to represent the Mixed Conifer Element and we will further evaluate the site and make recommendation to the RNA committee for their consideration.

290/1695

I support each of your recommendations for Special Interest Areas and Research Natural Areas. My only question is with regard to the proposed Home Camp Creek White Fir-Red Fir RNA. I hope that the essential pristine atmosphere of the Kaiser Wilderness Area will not be jeopardized in any way.

Establishment of the Home Camp Creek White Fir-Red Fir RNA will not jeopardize the Kaiser Wilderness Area. RNAs are set aside for research opportunities.

291-RESEARCH/NATURAL AREAS

291/1280

I also support designation of the Bishop Creek natural area

Thank you for your support.

291/1313

We are pleased that the Plan lists two candidate RNAs, but would like to suggest that it also utilize terrestrial and aquatic community classifications developed by state agencies. The Forest should determine which of these communities are present in the Forest and develop a list of sites that could potentially fill RNAs.

The Forest Service selects these candidate areas where they maintain interrelationship of terrestrial and aquatic systems, particularly valuable as baseline areas for research and monitoring, and because they are easier to delineate and protect on the ground. As these areas are discovered, they will be inventoried and considered for RNA status during future Plan revisions.

291/1369

I was particularly pleased to see the protection you are proposing for the Research Natural Areas and the rivers. Regarding the Devil's Peak Botanical Area, I favor establishment.

Thank you for your comments. Devil's Peak Botanical Area is established with approval of the Final Plan

291/1371

We support the formation of the RNA between South Fork Merced and Yosemite National Park boundary. We support the mining withdrawal and the plans for no timber harvest. If this area is not selected by the Regional Forester, we believe that it should be classified by the LMP as a dispersed recreation-no timber management area. We support a no-timber harvest designation for the Mt. Raymond Roadless Area and South Fork Canyon. South Fork Canyon has no timber harvests scheduled in the near future, and is therefore perfect for the dispersed recreation, no timber harvest designation.

Thank you for your input. The EIS and Plan recommends the Bishop Creek RNA to the Chief for establishment.

The South Fork Canyon area has now been changed to dispersed recreation-no harvest.

291/1383 & 1412

I support your recommendations for the Research Natural Areas and the Special Interest Areas. In addition, the Dinkey Creek area should be officially designated as a recreation oriented stream. Also, the Mt. Raymond area tributary to Yosemite Valley should be considered for inclusion into the Park or otherwise protected from logging.

Your suggestion to designate Dinkey Creek as a recreation area and exclude logging from Mt. Raymond was carefully considered along with input from many others who want to increase the ASQ. In our attempt to balance all resources, social and economic need, the most appropriate mix was to place the Dinkey Creek Area into the General Forest Zone and Mt. Raymond into dispersed recreation with no scheduled timber harvest.

291/1412

I commend the Plan's recommendation for research and special interest areas, but more specific management plans are needed. Dinkey Creek corridor should be protected from becoming a reservoir because of a possible dam.

Thank you for your support of our SIAs. The present SIAs have establishment reports that contain management plans. Management plans for the newly established SIAs will be prepared. The proposed hydroelectric project planned for the Dinkey Creek area has been withdrawn.

291/1669

Since RNAs are for nonmanipulative research and education, how will livestock be managed on them?

RNAs are protected for research and educational purposes. Livestock grazing would be permitted only where it is essential to maintain a specific vegetation type. Construction of boundary fences would be permitted for protection against livestock or excess human use if the need arises.

291/1716

We support the Forest for its contribution to the region's percent of the RNA program. CNPS supports official designation of Bishop Creek, Pacific Ponderosa Pine, and Home Creek White Fir-Red Fir RNAs. Interim management and protection plans will need to be included in the final Plan and EIS for the candidate RNAs. We feel strongly that RNAs and SIAs should have standards and guidelines that ensure completion of inventories and studies for evaluation and protection of biological resources and ecological attributes.

Forest Service policy and regional direction protects proposed RNAs and SIAs. The prime consideration in managing RNAs is maintenance of unmodified conditions and natural processes. Inventories, research plans for RNA's and SIAs will be conducted as funding becomes available and/or cooperators such as CNPs provide volunteers and expertise.

291/1736

Public access to the Research Natural Areas for the purpose of recreation should not be encouraged, and access should be restricted entirely where it interferes with research projects in progress.

All forms of recreational use will be prohibited if such use threatens research or educational values.

291/1843

Research Natural Areas and botanical areas are not just outlines on a map to be thought of as fulfilling plant protection. This is poor stewardship. These areas need to be managed to protect the resource

See response to 291/1716.

292-SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS (BOTANICAL, GEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL)

292/1055

Lack of any specific management plan to sustain or enhance the habitat of sensitive species in Special Management Areas will inevitably lead to a long term degradation of habitat quality.

Establishment of Special Interest Areas ensures protection from any activities which could lead to degradation of the areas. Management Plans will be prepared.

292/1710

There is a concern of the possibility of disproportionately large acreages being excluded from production and use by the designation of Special Interest Sites. Some of their Special Interest Sites refer to fish, wildlife, sensitive plants, and sites of cultural interest. We recommend determination of the amount of adequate samples necessary to preserve the feature avoiding unneeded duplication. National Parks located nearby should be considered within the matrix that was used to determine

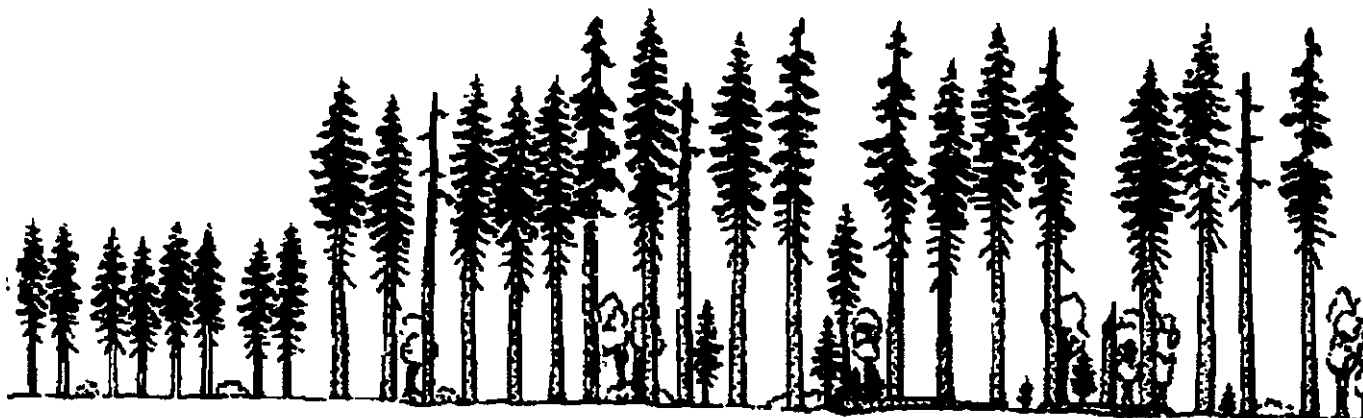
the number of special interest areas. This will help to reduce the impact on timber sales in the next ten years.

We feel that there is not a disproportionately large acreage being proposed for various natural biological or physical features. The Forest Plan will protect a matrix of spotted owl habitat areas, protect cultural and historical sites, conserve sensitive species, and to protect officially-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals. Total acreage for these purposes amounts to a very small percentage of the Forest, but will ensure that future generations of Americans will have the opportunity to conduct research and study and enjoy these natural and unmodified special areas.

292/1828

We would agree with the enhancement of special areas for habitat of the Spotted Owl.

We currently are analyzing three management strategies to maintain Spotted Owl Habitat Areas (SOHA). These strategies are even-aged, uneven-aged, and no scheduled harvest.



300-SPECIAL USES

300/0306

I agree with S&G #9 because it will help to protect the animals.

Direction provided in the Plan will lessen the effects that recreational residences have on wildlife. Other resources will also be enhanced. However, it is not the intent of this policy to eliminate all recreational residences.

301-UTILITIES

301/0464

PG&E must retain its rights to operate and replace at any time, existing electric power lines. PG&E must retain all ingress and egress rights previously granted for maintenance and safe operation. PG&E must retain the right to trim, cut down, and clear away all trees that, in the opinion of PG&E, are hazardous to electric power lines. We suggest that a guideline be placed in transportation to read "Local roads closed to public use may remain open for land management activities by the Forest and for permitted uses... "

The existing special use permit system currently allows access to your lines for operation and maintenance. To allow these access roads to remain open to the public could cause resource damage and increase the Forest maintenance budget. It is not our intent to allow public access on permittee's roads used solely for the purpose of maintaining licensee improvements.

310-TIMBER

310/0059 & 1677

Two portions of area #61 should have no timber harvest. the area south and east of Lost Meadow and the "arrowhead" areas (east of a line drawn from Hoffman Mtn. to Statum Mdw)

Your input was considered in our final analysis. From your description it appears there will be some logging in the area southeast of Lost Meadow. There probably won't be logging east of a line drawn from Hoffman Mtn. to Statum Meadow.

310/0077

I find myself in the peculiar position of seeing the "Multiple Use" issue from both sides. The Forest Service needs to compromise between saving the trees on behalf of the environment and cutting all the trees for the wood products industry.

We agree. Our Preferred Alternative provides the best mix of harvesting and savings trees on behalf of the environment

310/0150

I have a few questions regarding Items in the Standard and Guidelines.

#90 - Is 660 feet enough distance between regeneration units?

#95 - How many trees will you plant or seed?

#54 - Why will the average cutting unit be no greater than 10 acres?

#76 - What do you mean by fair or better range conditions?

#48 - Is it good sense to protect important roost trees and feeding areas for bald eagles.

Through an analysis, the Forest Service developed the Dispersion Rule, stating that there must be 660 feet between regeneration units. This is felt to be an adequate amount of space to ensure resource protection and maintain visual quality. The rule prevents cutting more timber in a

watershed than would be detrimental to the watershed resources. In response to #95, when planting pine species, we will plant about 400 trees per acre, and fir species will be planted at 500 per acre. The reason for #54, is that it gives the greatest amount of diversity in the smallest area. Since the bald eagle is a federally listed endangered species it is important to protect their roosting and feeding so as not to contribute to their demise. See response to 388/0178 for answer to #76.

310/0305

The Forest is taking a risk at not meeting the RPA goals (Alternative C). I am impressed with this stand (and Alternative A), because I did not like the RPA's preferred alternative. Alternative C emphasized marketable resources at the potential loss in other resources.

Thank you for your support.

310/0527

Indications are that the new forest plans now being formulated are excluding large areas of commercial timberland which can be harvested by helicopter. These excluded lands appear to be, in part, the result of an outdated method of financial assessment now being used by the Forest Service planning staff. These excluded lands are commercial timberlands and the use of an updated system of costing would place some, if not all, of these timberlands back into the timber base.

Commercial timberlands, harvestable by helicopter, are included in the timber base.

310/0591

I feel that parts of our forests should be preserved as wilderness areas, but I also feel that enough land has been set aside for that purpose and that the remainder of the land should be developed for recreation and timber uses.

Thank you for your support. We feel the Preferred Alternative meets the intent of your comments.

310/1002

Table C.05 is not clear as to the projected mortality in the 16th decade. P.L. 96-514, the Act of Dec. 12, 1980, Sec 310 says in part, that commercial timber lands should be brought to "90% of their potential level of growth." We have trouble understanding how the management regimes outlined here respond to that legislative direction.

These two tables have different basis of measurements and units. Therefore, a direct comparison should not be made. The timber productivity classification is potential gross-growth for fully stocked stands at 95% of CMAI. The growth predicted for regenerated stands is net cubic foot volume resulting from all the management as well as economic constraints. FORPLAN model predicts yields for ponderosa and mixed conifer at 86% of full stocking and 90 % for other forest types. Volumes above those levels are considered as mortality losses in FORPLAN.

Table C.04 makes an improper statement. The last lines in the body of the table tell us that ASQ and programmed timber sale quantity for the first decade are identical. However, the first decade program total is only 998.2 MMBF or 99.8 MMBF per year. This is only 79% of the ASQ. Table C.04 misrepresents that situation. 91.7 cf/ac/yr represent a productivity level of 217.5 MMBF per year for Alternative A. During the first decade of the plan period the programmed timber sales represent only 46% of that capacity level. Any other agricultural enterprise planned on such a basis would soon be bankrupt. Again, we raise the question of the legislative direction in P.L. 96-514. A plan that projects less than 80% of its ASQ for the plan period must recognize and discuss the effect on its total resource management program.

Tables C.04 and C.06 has been revised to implement the planned ASQ.

With careful attention to logging systems and silvicultural techniques, we believe much greater volumes can be harvested from "sensitive" areas with fully acceptable results. We support tight visual constraints along major highways such as 168, 41 and 49, but we believe that a re-evaluation of visual constraint elsewhere could result in additional timber harvest without degradation of the VQO's

Your input was considered in our analysis.

DEIS, pg 2-11 says the MMR benchmark is reported as having a PNV 6.4% lower than that of the FLW benchmark. The TBR benchmark has a PNV 2% below that for FLW, but "almost identical to the PNV in the MMR benchmark." Clarification is needed.

Thank you for pointing out this discrepancy The text has been changed to reflect your comment.

It would help readability if you would report changes in PNV in dollars as well as percent.

We have not shown PNV as a percent. However, benefit/cost ratio is shown in Table 4.01 which may help you compare alternatives.

DEIS Standard and Guidelines pg.2-27 #'s 6 and 7 refer to "sustained slopes." It would help to have that phrase defined.

The words "sustained slope" were chosen to provide some exercise of judgement in the field based upon the circumstances presented by a specific area.

We continue to wonder how you can completely eliminate a program (no vegetation management in mixed conifer) and reduce the cost of the eliminated program by only 68%.

The program referred to is the reforestation program. If there is no vegetation management and disposal of logging debris, planting and precommercial thinning would continue. These three activities account for the remaining cost you questioned

310/1203

In general, the plan goes far to preserve the Forest to serve future generations. However, I have concerns regarding the accuracy of the estimated timber production the forest will yield and the method of using cubic feet instead of board feet to make these projections. The Plan should set these marginal lands aside for now, and if needed in the future they'll be there. The Plan should establish minimum bid prices for Forest timber.

The cubic foot measure is used in growth and yield estimates for planning because this measure is not biased by product expectations. Logs do not have to be sawn. They can be processed to produce any combination of plywood, chipboard, flakeboard or paper. Most of the areas preserved for future generations are marginal from a timber management standpoint. The Forest does have a minimum bid price for Forest timber.

310/1337

The two plans preferred by SFI's owner's don't adequately account for their insistence that they need to run both a sawmill and a co-generation plant at each site to burn the waste and dry lumber. Granted, this operation produces some electricity but it also produces some noise and air pollution and draws heavily from the water resource of surrounding areas in an arid climate.

The Forest doesn't have any jurisdiction in these matters.

310/1528 & 0523

The defining of four regulation management classes is a positive step. Since this is perhaps the most controversial portion of the plan, it is unfortunate no timber element plan was prepared, showing where lands in different regulation classes are located.

Thank you for your support. Questions concerning the management of a specific locations on the Forest can be answered by contacting a district office or the Forest Supervisor. Regulation classes vary because of such things as visual 'seen' areas, slopes, streams, and timber types. A map of any reasonable scale, with this much detail would become a map too cluttered and confusing for a clear understanding.

310/1533

Plan states that "timber sales account for over 90% of Forest receipts. This built-in bias in favor of timber management has an influence on all other management goals outside of wilderness. From an economic standpoint, therefore, there is always pressure to stray away from the stated goal of Forest Service

We agree, the proportion of the Forest receipts from timber cause the Forest to watch carefully those decisions which will effect those receipts. We believe the higher proportion and total value of timber receipts indicate use of the timber resource is important to the local and national public. Receipts from National Forests are returned to the national treasury, then Congress allocates funds to the Forest on the budget process. We agree, throughout the annual budgeting process, from Congress down to the Forest, diligence must be maintained to assure immediate monetary returns do not overshadow the other goods and services provided by the Forest.

Of all the resources of the Forest, timber is the most susceptible to mismanagement and abuse. Management for timber production is basically incompatible with several other management objectives, No other type of Forest management has such potential for permanently and irrevocably damaging the character and uniqueness of the Forest. Timber management has an inevitable negative impact on wildlife habitat, visual qualities, recreational use, diversity, and water quality in the Forest

We do not believe that the timber resource of the Forest is mismanaged nor abused. The professional foresters on-the-ground take pride and care in the management of our Nation's resources We agree that in isolated cases, the harvest of timber and associated activities has the potential for permanently changing the character and uniqueness of the timber resource. We also agree, in isolated instances, there can be short-term or long-term impacts on forested wildlife habitat. However, there are many positive impacts which are created, (eg) creation of small openings in homogeneous forested areas establishing habitat niches for a greater number and variety of wildlife species, improved visual quality through a varied biological vegetative and faunal diversity and improve recreational access opportunities. Timber management is a compatible and legitimate use of our National Forest when timber sales are well thought out and various mitigation measures are included by our team of resource specialists to minimize impacts on other uses and resources.

We recognize that many of the unacceptable aspects of this Plan, particularly in the area of timber management, are reflections of regional and national Forest Service philosophy, and we therefore request that our comments on this plan be forwarded to those responsible for these directives at the appropriate level.

Your letter has been forwarded to the Pacific SW Region Land Management planning staff.

An area of concern for me is the plan for timber harvest and management. Timber in this region struggles for growth against shallow soils and highly variable climate in contrast to the rich forest lands of the Pacific Northwest. Therefore, I would favor an absolutely minimum harvest

Much of the CAS land on the Forest have deep, rich soils that will grow trees nearly as rapidly as forest lands in the Pacific Northwest Your preference for a reduced ASQ was noted and considered in our analysis.

310/1637

Whether or not Sequoia is included in the management plan, we believe the Sierra would not be remiss in doing whatever possible in establishing it as a significant crop tree, it should lend itself well to even-aged management with the advantages such would have on the Sierra.

Giant Sequoia is currently in botanical and historical areas. They are relicts of an ancient coniferous species which thrived in a moist, climatic age and were more widespread and prolific. Because of public sentiment and pressure, we probably would not consider widespread reforestation of Giant Sequoia as a crop tree We do, however, plant this species on a limited basis when ecological and silvicultural conditions warrant and are recommended by professional Foresters. We also include planting as an ornamental in and near developed recreation sites.

310/1660 & 1579

There appears to be a weakness in timber inventory methods and overharvesting of timber inventory. Overharvesting of timber is causing marketable "on hand" timber to decrease. Develop an ongoing and continuous tree inventory that shows wood on hand for any given day in marketable trees in terms defined that will not change with time. Implement your organization to absorb the labor force when harvesting cutbacks occur

The technology necessary to carry out the inventory you suggest does not exist. Generally, the Forest organization operates as you recommend. See response to 311/1366 and 1533.

310/1669

The combination of even-aged management, the short rotation period, promotion of firewood collection and biomass fuels, and using genetically superior stock in revegetation bodes poorly for the long range provision of a diverse wildlife habitat containing key features.

Wildlife diversity is central to the management of the Sierra National Forest. Many species such as deer are dependent on a mix of different successional stages for both forage and cover. The concern for dead and down logs for habitat has been identified, and included in the S&Gs. For species that are dependent on older successional stages, special management areas have been established. These areas have a longer rotation or no scheduled harvest and include spotted owl management areas, wilderness, and riparian management zones.

Standard and Guideline #84 needs some qualifiers including "when needed for disease control, where volume is greater than -- brd-ft/acre, where access is existing, where timber harvest plans call for harvesting within the next....years, etc.

The detail you are recommending is included in project level planning. This planning occurs when an insect or disease problem is identified.

The lack of reforestation on clearcut areas is a serious problem We support the contention to eliminate the backlog of reforestation needed by 1990.

Thank you for your support.

310/1669 & 1178

A certain level of residual forest fuels should be allotted to remain on the cut unit. We recommend that "all cull logs greater than 24 inches in diameter and 5 feet long be distributed randomly over the cut unit to provide wildlife habitat and maintain soils."

The proper mix between leaving cull logs for wildlife and fuel reduction to prevent or control the spread of large fires was addressed during the planning process. Both wildlife and fire management's interests were represented. The results were, that on the average, 2 down logs and 2 snags will be left per acre.

310/1669

It is very important to enforce Standard and Guideline #99. However, a minimum of 10% of the forest area should be left in each seral type at all times #99 offers no guidance to the reader about the scale over which the compliance to the plan will be measured. Is it the forest? A watershed? A timber compartment? We question whether 10% of the CAS land will remain in stage 4b/c and stage 4c if the rotation ages described on p. 4-7 sec 4.3.11, are achieved?

The distribution of seral stages will be monitored on a management area basis as discussed in the Forest Plan under each management area Very little is known on the amount of diversity needed to maintain viability of many of the wildlife species. However, we feel that 5% will be sufficient to maintain the diversity of wildlife habitat in the Forest at this time. Generally, the standard can be met within a management area with Regulation Class II and III lands. If not, Regulation Class I lands will be identified and maintained in the necessary seral stage. Research and policy formulation is continuing, and the present diversity of wildlife habitat will not significantly change by the end of this decade. As information becomes available which documents that greater amounts of each seral stage are needed, we will modify the Forest Plan accordingly

Plan pg.4-55 Table 4.02 says that if the number of acres reforested can be listed, then the number of acres harvested should also be listed. Human Resources: Is this the number of employees for the forest? This should be made clearer. How can the forest realistically expect to implement programs listed in this plan without an increase in personnel?

The acres harvested are listed in the DEIS in Table 2.38. The human resources you refer to are volunteers, older Americans and other manpower programs. These are not regular Forest Service employees

310/1681

Standard and Guideline #'s 85 & 87 are commendable features.

Thank you for your support.

310/1682

Timber needs are increasingly being met with short rotation industrial forestry in plantations outside the Forest. Small woodlots and larger private holdings grow 10 to 50 times as much timber as public forests. Threatened and vanishing old growth is at a premium in the forest for wildlife recreation alternatives. Local economies depend on recreation income that increasingly supplants income from local small scale timber operations. You need to initiate in the DEIS a coordinated Sierra Nevada region private forest alternative.

The volume available from private land was considered. However, almost all the private timber land adjacent to the Forest has been harvested and local mills currently look to the National Forest for their timber supply. An alternative relying only on timber from private land would result in the elimination of all mills in the area.

Plan pg 3-12 states that 20 to 25% of the "lumber manufactured in the San Joaquin Valley" comes from the Forest. At 20%, Alternative A represents a total of 625 MMBF. At 30% it represents 417 MMBF. The difference of 208 MMBF becomes a significant figure to other stumpage sources. It should be resolved.

The Pacific SW Regional Guide provides general information. The demand for lumber fluctuates resulting in changes in the demand for timber. These fluctuations make exact year to year projections unfeasible

310/1684

I was pleasantly surprised with Alt A and in many instances I could certainly support the overall objectives outlined in that approach. I feel Alt A is remarkably farsighted for a bureaucracy often in bed with the Western Timber Association.

Thank you for your support.

310/1702 & 1594

Only one goal relates to the timber resource of the forest, and that one would make timber harvesting subordinate to "environmental factors and other resource values." First, we do not agree with the philosophy that timber production must always be constrained by "other resource considerations." Second, we are concerned that neither the Forest theme nor the statement of goals and objectives discusses the Forest's role in providing local employment.

Forest management is a "joint production" process with timber being just one of the outputs. Inherent in that "process", is give and take between outputs and amenity values on specific lands. The effects on timber production of additional recreation use, and expanded fish and wildlife were considered in the decision. Many decisions were resolved in favor of producing timber. Nevertheless, in the final analysis, we concur with your judgement that the cumulative effect of the give and take has resulted in a decline in timber production from that which is technically feasible. We further agree that this will likely lead to a reallocation of existing lumber production to other locations. For additional detailed information see Appendix L. The final ASQ is a balance between maximizing timber on land capable and suitable for growing timber and protecting other values and resources such as visual quality, fish and wildlife and riparian areas.

Alternatives F and I have certain drawbacks which make them less desirable to us. These alternatives place too much emphasis on commodity development. If either was chosen, the Forest's timber program would become controversial, leading inevitably to appeals and litigation over timber sales and necessary timber management activities.

We concur with your evaluation of Alternatives F and I. Alternative I was not brought forward to the FEIS. We also believe Alternative C and H would also lead inevitably to appeals and litigation over timber sales and necessary timber management activities. For additional information see response to 000/0555.

310/1711

The level of use of private sector contractors should be maintained if not increased (i.e., brush piling, tree planting, minor construction). Private contractors should be used wherever and whenever possible.

It is anticipated that the level of use of contractors will increase as the Plan gets implemented and because of the increased activities documented in the Plan

310/1737 & 1579

I feel you should reconsider the use of cubic feet in calculations of Timber production. Timber sales are made in board feet, calculations of estimates in the plan should use the same units

The cubic foot measure is used in growth and yield estimates for planning because this measure is not biased by product expectations. Logs do not have to be sawn. They can be processed to produce any combination of plywood, chipboard, flakeboard or paper. Most of the areas preserved for future generations are marginal from a timber management standpoint. The Forest does have a minimum bid price for Forest timber.

310/1819

The minimum management requirements are not varied among alternatives and were developed without public participation in violation of NEPA. The amount that MMRs (excluding CMAI and NDEF) reduce board foot timber production is not shown in the plan contrary to repeated requests by industry.

Minimum Management Requirements (MMRs) were designed to meet minimum legal requirements and apply to benchmark analysis as well as the alternatives. MMRs were varied on resource outputs. For example the FLW benchmark did not contain the NDEF MMR.

Development of MMRs is directed by 36 CFR 219.27. Some MMRs are outside of Forest Service authority to change. Others are provided to the Forest in the Regional Guide, developed through the NEPA process, and by the Regional Office as planning direction. These MMRs may be changed. All MMRs have been subject to public comment through public involvement of the proposed Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Therefore, all MMRs adopted in the Preferred Alternative have been subject to the NEPA process. Public review of the Draft resulted in some adjustments to MMRs in the Preferred Alternative.

311-ALLOWABLE SALE QUANTITY (ASQ)
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311/0305

I was pleased with Alt. A. It works at meeting the majority of public needs, while showing a desire to prevent long term damage to the forest. I am pleased with the decision to maintain timber annual cut to what the average has been over the past 10 years. The decision to not increase cut will give you more time to study the cumulative effects logging practices of clearcutting on tractor and cable grounds have on watershed, with less pressure to harvest marginal areas.

Thank you for your support.

311/0305, 0001, 0058, 0064, 0066, 0071, 0077, 0085, 0258, 0259, 0263 0280, 0287, 0333, 0337, 0356, 0375, 0433, 0446, 0467, 0448, 0462, 0467, 0513, 0525, 0537, 0539, 0543, 0576, 0591, 0597, 0714, 0725, 0772, 0790, 0814, 0820, 0870, 0897, 0945, 0989, 0996, 1064, 1071, 1206, 1209, 1213, 1236, 1247, 1283, 1334, 1353, 1375, 1447, 1450 1468, 1492, 1493, 1542, 1562, 1651, 1652, 1658, 1677, 1683, 1702, 1703, 1710, 1715, 1733, 1752, 1768, 1785, 1796, 1799, 1806, 1822, 1830, 1839, 1840, 1851, 1858, & 1859
Questions concerning both increasing and decreasing the ASQ.

Many respondents said the allowable sale quantity in the Preferred Alternative was too low. They wanted more land committed to timber management and less restrictions from spotted owl, visual quality, deer, riparian, etc. They stated that if the current level of harvest was not raised to approximately 160 MMBF, their economic livelihood would be jeopardized. This adverse effect included concern not only for mill workers, but their families, secondary businesses, and service businesses as well

Other respondents gave diverse reasons why the ASQ under the Preferred Alternative was too high. They claim that the budget needed to produce this level of harvest is unrealistically high, and it gave an undesirable subsidy to the timber industry because revenues would not cover costs to the government. There were strong objections to using pesticides, clearcutting and harvesting timber on marginal timber land. They point out the potential adverse effect of timber harvest on resources such as Soils, Watershed, Wildlife habitat and Riparian zones.

These divergent views emphasize the fact that outside of wilderness, there is not enough land base on the Forest to satisfy all the needs expressed by the public. The final ASQ is a balance between maximizing timber on lands capable and suitable for growing timber and protecting other values and resources such as Visual quality, Fish, Wildlife, and Riparian areas. An increase in the ASQ would result in an unacceptable risk and impact on non-timber resources. A reduction of the ASQ would result in an unnecessary reduction in the Forest's capability to produce timber on a sustained basis, provide jobs and support business.

311/0453

I heartily agree with your expected allowable timber cut of 125 MBF. That seems to be an approach that will protect the continued yield without destroying the aesthetic values of the forest.

Thank you for your support. Additional reduction in ASQ has been made to provide additional protection for spotted owls and riparian areas.

311/0621

I am aware of the importance of timber harvesting. Harvesting of timber compliments and enhances recreational opportunities, grazing, and wildlife habitat. With proper forest management techniques the Forest can have maximum benefits to all groups.

Thank you for your support. We feel our final ASQ is the best mix of timber harvest and resource protection.

311/0816

We need optimal timber production.

Your preference was considered during our analysis.

311/0929 & 0996

As it is the lumber industry has to find ways to compete worldwide. If your timber harvest plans are unnecessarily restrictive, there is a scramble for timber just to keep the present mills open. Costs will inevitably rise and the industry will be put at a further disadvantage. To make a hard decision to harvest less now in order to make more available 10 years down the road does not seem to be sensible. Is your crystal ball so good?

Timber harvest, in future generations, has been modified as you suggest. This adjustment was made to compensate for required protection of spotted owl habitat

311/1002

DEIS Table 2 05 and Table 2 24 both show first decade ASQ at 125.1 MMBF. The bf/cf ratio is 6.29. The Table 0.04 shows ASQ at 125.9 MMBF or 19.8 MMBF. The bf/cf ratio is 6.36. We have used 6 35. We trust that is somewhere near correct.

Regional planning direction specified that a 6.3 board foot per cubic foot ratio was to be used.

Although you display the acreage in each timber regulation class and describe the activities within that class, it would be helpful to also display the percentage (or volume) of the ASQ scheduled to come from each class.

The ASQ is not constant through time by regulation class. Since the ASQ is monitored as a whole and changes by regulation class by decade, the amount coming from each class would be difficult to track and not be meaningful.

311/1148

The market alternative for timber harvest is not acceptable because it leaves no margin for error in estimating regrowth, loss by fire, or disease and other variables.

We agree with your comment.

Limit cutting near wilderness areas and take extra precautions to limit traffic on logging roads to logging only

Buffers were included in wilderness boundary designation and additional buffers are not planned. Many logging roads are used by the recreating public as well as for logging.

311/1315

I am of the opinion that timber harvesting should not exceed levels that lead to erosion and destruction of habitat.

We agree with you The Final Forest Plan meets your expectations.

311/1362

Alt E is certainly better than any of the other considered alternatives, but it should not be considered as an "amenity alt " It is simply an alt. that somewhat reduces potential impacts to fish and wildlife while still allowing intensive management of timber lands. The level of all yield timber production is only 15% less than the proposed Alt A. You must evaluate an alternative where amenity values are actually protected. Alt. E clearly continues to thrust the Forest Services desire of an even-aged, regulated Forest on to the public as though this management was a public necessity regardless of environmental impacts

Alternative E was modified to include uneven-aged management to better reflect amenity values. In addition, a "Conservation Alternative" was considered in our analysis. It contained no even-aged management For the results of the analysis please refer to Section 2 of the FEIS.

311/1366

True multiple use is impossible at the unsustainable level of timber harvesting your draft plan proposes. We consider unrealistic your projections of timber yields and future prices, and insist that these be recalculated using figures that show lower rates of growth in existing stands or old-growth trees.

The growth used in the computer model is growth that has been measured within the Forest. This model predicts an increased growth rate of 1-2% which we do not consider unrealistic.

311/1390

It is apparent from a perusal of the maps for Alternative A and H that this increased ASQ is to occur at the sacrifice of dispersed recreation lands in Madera and Fresno Counties. These are marginal timber lands in any case, and considering the current philosophy of reducing expenditures for domestic programs, it is doubtful that funds would be available for effective reforestation practices. The uncertainties in predictions of sustainable yields leads one to believe that it would be prudent

to direct our attentions to a worst case scenario, thereby not depriving future generations of our national resources.

We agree with your reasons for not selecting Alternative H

311/1418

There should be no departure from sustained yield sales, even if it is determined that even-aged management is best for an area. A shelterwood system should be the first priority, with the clearcutting as a last resort

Clearcutting will be used where it is the optimum method of regeneration. This usually occurs in stands with a high proportion of pine, which needs full sunlight to properly grow. The number of acres clearcut will go down from that projected in the DEIS. Shelterwood, which is also an even-age management practice will be used in stands that have a high proportion of true fir which needs shade to grow successfully. Maintaining sustained yield is required by the National Forest Management Act

311/1450

The low budget alt. is good in that it proposes to reduce timber harvest permanently.

Your preference for the low budget alternative was considered in our final analysis

311/1492

There aren't enough alternative ways to get timber from sources other than the forest to meet the potential new shortfall resulting from the preferred alternative

We agree with your assessment.

311/1533

All of the Plan alternatives propose unacceptable, and we believed, un-sustainable timber management prescriptions. Even the amenities alternative calls for an eventual increase in timber harvest. We believe all the alternatives are biased toward timber management over all the other uses of the Forest, and fail to support the balanced mixed use of Forest resources the Forest Service purports to espouse. One significant way in which the general character of the Forest would be changed if the Plan as presented is adopted is by the replacement of large stands of old-growth forest with young, even-age stands, with a less than natural variety of species. The rotation ages recommended by the Plan for all species are too short for sustainable yields and for maintaining anything approaching natural visual qualities of the Forest. In essence, the combination of short rotation ages, clear-cut harvesting techniques, and gradual decrease in varieties of trees in the areas of the nature of the Forest. Old-growth forest areas with outstanding wildlife habitat, visual qualities, will gradually be transformed into a tree farm. Many species of wildlife will be replaced. Loss will be permanent and irreparable.

We acknowledge that on a relatively small proportion of the Forest (Regulation Class I and II lands) the proposed level of timber harvest will continue the change in the natural forest that has been underway for the past 30 years to a condition where man's activity will be visible to the casual observer. This portion of the Forest will tend to fit the popular image of a "tree farm" rather than one that is park or wilderness-like in character. We acknowledge there will be less "oldgrowth" timber, a different mix of wildlife species than occurs in "oldgrowth," and a decline in the visual quality of the landscape on these areas. We acknowledge that on this relatively small portion of the Forest, timber harvest activity will reduce levels of some types of vegetation, particularly species of brush grass and forbs. We expect the variety of tree and brush species to remain about the same as existed in the past and believe the Plan adequately provides for maintaining viable populations of all other species of flora and fauna that occur on the Forest in areas such as SOHAs, Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Corridors, and Dispersed Recreation Areas

We feel strongly that the levels of timber harvest proposed in the Plan cannot be maintained over the planning horizon, and that should timber management be attempted at the levels called for by the Plan, the timber industry itself would suffer. Timber management prescriptions for the Forest must be managed for long-term productivity, not for short-term gain. The timber management prescriptions proposed in the Plan would result in a non-sustainable yield, future loss of income for

the Forest industry and the local counties, and irrevocable changes in other Forest resources and amenities, including wildlife populations.

We believe the planned timber harvest is sustainable over the long term. Our response to the CHEC analysis on timber yields addresses this belief and also responds to the balance of the comments included in your letter under "Timber Management".

a Projected rapid rate of growth in older stands: It appears this criticism is founded on a comparison of past 10-year growth from timber inventory summaries to the next 10-year projections. Such comparisons and their associated implications are not valid. Where timber stands are not yet stocked with trees to the point of major losses to mortality because of inter-tree competition, absolute growth is expected to increase over time. This has been verified by our plot data. The average condition on the Forest is less than full stocking. Therefore, future growth should be greater than past growth.

b Culmination of mean annual increment (CMAI) predicted by yield tables for older stands is almost always in the distant future. If true, it would be illegal for the Forest Service to clearcut these stands. Older, poorly stocked stands projected from the present, will often show no culmination even if the stands are projected beyond any reasonable expectation of longevity. The concept of culmination simply has no meaning where such stands are concerned. Culmination applies to stands with defined stocking levels throughout their existence and with a fixed starting age. As you state, ragged, wild stands can only be regarded as having grown past culmination as part of their cycle and decline, so no implied violation of NFMA exists

c. Yield tables underestimate culmination of CMAI for second-growth stands: CMAI in normal timber stands occurs when the growth on the living trees in the stand is overtaken by the volume lost to mortality. For second growth stands the underlying growth assumption is not that the stands are normal, but that they are plantations of about 400 seedlings per acre which are thinned as saplings or poles to 200 to 300 per acre depending on the species type. These planted stands grow to larger than normal yield table diameters before the stands reach crown closure. As they approach normality in terms of basal area per acre, further growth either results in mortality or must be harvested as thinnings. In these stands, the attrition of new growth takes place. CMAI will occur.

d. There are many factors not considered in the Plan which can negatively affect regeneration. We agree that reforestation is the most technically demanding and biological complex activity that must be carried out successfully to justify current harvest levels. We explicitly discounted harvest levels for the normal losses to fire, and we discounted the maximum growth potential of intensively managed stands by 10%. We planned for using the shelterwood system for red fir even though planting is planned. The shelterwood trees left are, in essence, an insurance in this difficult type. Even with these considerations and the demonstrated success of many acres of rapidly growing plantations, we acknowledge that successful regeneration in the compressed time frames is not guaranteed. We monitor the acres of harvested areas not satisfactorily stocked. A revision of the plan would be considered if the amount of those acres, five years after harvest, exceed the limits specified in the monitoring plan.

e Cross-subsidies violate Forest Service policy. Decreasing the minimum price for one species to offset low or negative value of another species is a common practice in California. The fact that this has been done does not automatically mean Forest Service policy is being violated. CHEC analysis was incomplete and therefore not completely accurate. CHEC's analysis did not take into consideration the cost the government would have to incur to remove these lower value trees separately where the land management objectives for the site requires their removal. When these costs are included, nearly all the sales comply with the tract value policy. While the compliance to the tract value policy may be argued for the few remaining sales, maximizing dollar returns from each timber sale is a project level decision. That is where the argument of policy compliance should be argued. The planning analysis conducted for the Forest Plan indicates that the cash returns are expected to exceed costs in each of the ten year periods of the Plan. The 1987 and 1988 test of the Timber Sale Program Information Report System (TSPIRS) supports that expectation.

Road construction and reconstruction is scheduled to be decreased by 51% during the first decade. This is commendable. However, specific timber sale plans call for the construction of 147.8 miles of new logging roads. Such roads are an integral part of management for timber production and are of the significant ways in which timber management changes the fact of the Forest.

We agree that to lower the miles of roads to be constructed can be achieved by reducing timber production.

311/1535

While we congratulate the forest for planning significant use of uneven-aged silviculture, we suggest even less use of clearcutting than the 23,400 acres proposed. Use of toxic herbicides should be phased out. One of the worst aspects of the plan is its increase in harvest level from 110 MMBF to 146 MMBF. Appendix J, justifying clearcutting, is biased against the advantages of uneven-aged silviculture and toward the advantages of even-aged.

Thank you for your input. Uneven-aged management has been increased to 35,000 acres in the Preferred Alternative. The Amenity Alternative (E) has been modified to include uneven-aged management. The Conservative Alternative includes uneven-aged management without use of herbicides. See Section 2 of the FEIS.

311/1669

Wildlife Standards and Guidelines should be oriented toward improving wildlife habitat as opposed to simply averting catastrophes. Regarding #44, in addition to rotation ages, the problem is compounded by an emphasis on even-aged management. Harvesting and silvicultural practices such as aerial spraying, slash disposal and hazard tree removal will make the guideline impossible to reach.

S&G #44 of the Draft Plan will be difficult to meet but we have every intention of meeting it. An additional S&G has been added that will reduce salvage sales in snag deficient areas in order to meet snag guidelines.

Concerning Standard and Guideline #108, why would the forest allow an initial harvest and reforestation and not a subsequent harvest?

S&G #108 of the Draft Plan refers to "No Harvesting" on steep, highly erodible soil. There would not be an initial harvest.

311/1683

Alternative E's approach to timber management best suits not only the needs of the timber industry (the plan mentions that it will meet the minimum demand of local manufacturing facilities for sawtimber), but of the tourist/recreation community as well.

Alternative E does not meet the needs of the timber industry as was pointed out in several letters. See response to 311/0305.

311/1702

Our company's principal interest is in seeing that enough timber is sold from the Forest to sustain SFI's three central California sawmills. For that reason, we oppose the Preferred Alternative (A-PRF) in its present form. This alternative would however, provide an adequate volume of timber in the future. But, during the next 10 years, the preferred management program would fall 25 MMBF short of the minimum timber required to support local mills.

The Final Forest Plan does not predict any increased future timber yields as did the Draft Plan. We agree with your conclusion that harvest in the future periods could have been adjusted to provide higher first period timber production. In essence the Final Forest Plan made that adjustment to compensate for protection of spotted owl habitat as required by Regional planning direction.

SFI opposes Alternatives B, D, & E because timber sales would be reduced drastically from their present levels, and in the case of Alternatives D & E, only minimum management of the forests resources would result, allowing for environmental degradation.

We concur with your evaluation of Alternatives B, D and E.

SFI supports Alternatives C-RPA & H-MKT, without qualification. These alternative management plans would produce an ASQ of at least 150 MMBF over the next five decades. In addition to providing adequate volumes of timber, Alternatives C & H generally assures that the land and resources of the Forest are managed with the best mix of benefits for most people.

Your support for the RPA and Market Alternative were considered.

A 125 MMBF per year increase in the proposed timber sale program is not only feasible, but could be accomplished without affecting adversely the other multiple-uses of the Sierra Forest.

We do not agree that the mix of other resource benefits produced in the Preferred Alternative could be maintained if timber harvest was raised to 150 MMBF annually. We agree that the priority given to harvest understocked stands over the next 30 years results in a decrease in harvest. However, we do not agree that decreasing or eliminating this goal would significantly increase the permitted rate of harvest. To obtain the other resource benefits the total acres harvested is limited and its distribution across the Forest is carefully controlled. The necessary distribution of the harvested acres is obtained by specifying minimum harvest levels in certain key timber stands. The goal for harvesting in understocked stands was just one timber condition that had a minimum harvest level specified to insure that the other resource benefits could meet quantity and quality goals for those benefits.

Prime timber growing sites, hardwood species (such as oak) could be managed less intensively. On non-commercial timber sites, oak stands could be managed for a variety of commodity and wildlife purposes.

We agree that decreasing the management intensity for hardwood species on CAS land would result in an increase in the ASQ. However, that would also decrease quantity and quality of habitat needed for a variety of game and nongame species that can not be met by hardwood trees growing on less productive soils.

The most serious technical shortcoming of the Proposed Plan and DEIS concerns the agency's assessment of the raw material needs of the sawmills adjacent to the Forest. We have concluded, based upon all information available to us, that the agency simply did not understand how significantly these raw material needs have changed during the past two years (See Original Letter). At numerous places the reader is given the impression that an ASQ of 125 MMBF will meet the timber needs of local mills. The mills adjacent to the Forest require 157 MMBF of timber harvested annually. The underestimation of timber needs could open the planning process to appeal and litigation.

We agree that the DEIS underestimated the raw material needs of the local industry. We also agree that the ASQ of the Preferred Alternative will impact the economies of these operations. Additional information on individual mills and communities has been added to the FEIS, Appendix L.

311/1710 & 1468

Timber volumes can be increased by making limited entries into visually sensitive areas and special management areas.

Visually sensitive areas are part of the timber base where limited entries will be made. Special management areas normally will not include timber harvesting unless there is a catastrophic event.

311/1733

I'd like to see the Forest Service bring private industry with end result contracts and try innovative methods of regeneration.

Your suggestion will more than likely be attempted during the planning period.

311/1777

We are alarmed that some local governments and school districts are supporting Alternative H. Confusing information presented in the Reader's Guide to the plan may have resulted in local government opposition to the Preferred Alternative. It shows an 18% reduction in the ASQ, giving the impression that a decline in employment and timber receipts will occur.

A decline in employment and timber receipts will result from a reduced ASQ

311/1786

Decrease timber production and the roads needed to harvest timber in order to preserve undeveloped areas and allow already harvested areas to return to their natural state

Your input for decreasing timber production, eliminating roads and returning harvested areas to their natural state was considered in our analysis

312-CLEARCUTTING

312/0102

I think that your idea to prevent extinction of certain animals is a very good idea. I like your idea of improving trails open to horses.

Thank you for your support

312/0356

I endorse the following aspects of the Plan: Intensive forest management: clearcuts, shelter woods, regulated uneven-age selection harvest throughout recreation, watershed, visual zones, and thinning.

Thank you for your support.

312/0441

I would like to support your forest management practices of even-age management, such as clearcutting and your continued use of effective herbicides.

Thank you for your support.

312/0523, 1113, 1347, 1700, 1798, & 1807

We feel that five percent of all clearcuts should be managed for wildlife. The continued checkboard of clearcuts will eventually make a wildlife desert of large portions of the forest

It is anticipated that at least 5% of each clearcut will not be fully stocked with trees, i.e. will include wildlife habitat.

312/0545

As a land owner adjoining Forest Service land, I am insulted by the new plan to put buffers of 100 yards from streams, roadways and private property owners. Everyone wants to save the aesthetic beauty of the forest and potential harvests for years to come. Selective cutting in those areas should be done. If you have a clearcut, (I hope not) do it away from these areas.

A shelterwood will be used adjacent to private land. After a new stand is established the remaining trees will be removed to eliminate a source of mistletoe and disease and to allow the plantation to grow without competition.

312/1034, 0017, 0102, 0238, 0513, 0545, 0989, 1055, 1203, 1468, 1520, 1535, 1610, 1669, 1700, 1710, 1715, 1716, 1806, 1843, 1845 & 1863

Please consider reducing the amount of timber that can be harvested by clear-cutting.

Thirty-five thousand acres of even-aged management have been changed to uneven-aged management in the Preferred Alternative as a result of public concern over the use of clearcutting. There are three reasons why clearcutting is the Forest's principle stand regeneration system.

One is biological, which includes stands heavily infected with mistletoe or stands where too few crop trees remain. The only effective treatment to prevent re-introduction of mistletoe is to remove all trees. In stands where too few crop trees remain, starting over is the most effective method to meet acceptable growth rates.

The second reason is that post-sale treatments can best be accomplished from clearcutting. These treatments include disposal of harvest residue (reduces risk of fire mortality), preparing the site for planting, control of competing vegetation (assures survival) and protection of new stands from damage in succeeding harvests.

The last and perhaps the most important reason is that clearcutting is necessary to sustain a higher ASQ. While an uneven-aged regeneration system may result in establishing new trees, actual measured growth and research data on plantations document that growing stands to minimum merchantability in 60 years can only be done under an even-aged system.

While the need to rely heavily on clearcutting could be lessened if the ASQ were further reduced, to create new stands with sufficient volume and tree size for future harvest is not avoidable, only postponed. There is more evidence today that regeneration goals can be achieved using the clearcutting system, than there is to support a harvest level based upon predicted creation and growth of uneven-aged stands.

312/1178

I fail to understand how you plan to maintain the biological diversity of the forest. A 50 year overview map is needed that shows what areas of the forest are planned for clearcuts, shelterwood cuts, selective cutting. Serious doubts to maintain the fertility of the forest soils. Opposed to the use of forest products to fuel energy biomass plants. Recommend large amounts of small limbs be left in the soil to help retain water and lessen damage from erosion. 5% of all clearcuts should be managed for wildlife.

Please contact the Forest Wildlife Biologist for an indepth discussion concerning biological diversity. We also are concerned about the fertility of Forest soils. S&Gs have been established to leave 50% ground cover on regeneration units. In addition snags and down logs are to be left. It is estimated that at least 5% of all clearcuts will include brush and other wildlife habitat.

312/1222

I support a balance of even-aged and uneven-aged management on timber so that amenity values such as visual quality are not seriously degraded by consumptive use.

The amount of uneven-aged management was increased to 35,000 acres in the Preferred Alternative. The Amenity Alternative (E) was modified in the FEIS to include uneven-aged management on all tractor ground.

312/1285

Concerning Production, none of the alternatives are acceptable. As far as I can tell, none of the listed alternatives in the DEIS offer an acceptable plan for timber management. I am requesting that clearcutting be completely eliminated (100%) as a method of harvesting timber in the Forest. As a substitute for the management practice listed for all the alternatives in the DEIS, I am requesting that all timber management be converted to all age management instead.

An alternative called the "Conservation Alternative" was analyzed in the FEIS. It included uneven-aged management and an extended rotation period. Please see Chapter 2 of the FEIS. The Amenity Alternative (E) was amended in the FEIS to include uneven-aged management on all tractor ground.

312/1333 & 1415

The uncertainties associated with the use of clearcutting in these forests demands that the Forest Service study the long term impacts of different size clearcuts over 100 to 200 year rotation to determine which size results in the best regeneration and long term protection of soil productivity.

Your suggestion is beyond the scope of the Sierra National Forest Land Management Plan.

312/1397

I agree with the intensive management of timber that uses even-aged management. I also appreciate your current policy of retention of stands of young trees and poles that are left after logging in cut blocks. These trees have been released and will grow. They will reduce the time needed and the cost of the regeneration program. It will reduce the need for herbicides.

We are pleased that you find even-aged management a positive policy. We will continue to use clearcut and shelterwood methods, although at a reduced amount. We will also continue our policy of retaining stands of young trees and poles in cut blocks when conditions warrant

312/1520

The Forest has blatantly ignored the complexities of the forest ecosystem. Maintenance of species, and gene pool diversity are of concern to us. Many of the forest species require Forests with closed canopies and associated cool micro climates. Of special concern are extremely steep and arid slopes, these marginal slopes do not reforest easily

Cones from the best trees in our stands are collected for our planting stock to maintain a good gene pool. Trees needing shade such as red and white fir are harvested under a shelterwood to maintain a cool, shaded micro-climate. Steep, arid, marginal slopes normally aren't logged or are selectively logged to maintain control of the slope.

Conservationists prefer small cutting units to larger units and individual tree selection and group selection to clearcutting, because of the lesser visual impacts, lesser erosion and greater resemblance to the natural forest.

Your input was considered in our analysis. Thirty-five thousand acres of uneven-aged management is now included in the Final Plan. In addition, the Amenity Alternative was modified to include uneven-aged management.

312/1549

I wholeheartedly support the Conservation Alternative which proposed significantly less timber harvest by clearcut. The widespread use of clearcutting, with the resulting and unavoidable degradation of watershed, fisheries and wildlife, should be an unacceptable alternative anywhere, but particularly where it would adversely effect popular recreational areas and areas with exceptional scenic qualities

The Conservation Alternative was considered in our analysis. Please see Section 2 of the FEIS.

312/1669 & 1543

Regarding Standard and Guideline #97, are these criteria "ands" or "ors." If all those criteria must be met, uneven-aged management will never be practiced.

All five criteria must be met to practice uneven-aged management. Uneven-aged management is scheduled for 35,000 acres in the Forest Plan.

312/1700

The Forest Service places excessive emphasis on clearcut logging, grazing, and OHV recreation at the expense of maintaining diverse and productive wildlife habitats. We recommend a greater emphasis on selective logging, with less reliance on herbicides, more old growth timber stands should be protected for spotted owls and related species.

Your input was considered in our final analysis. See response to 312/1285.

312/1711

Changes that might be instituted in the field are those of boundary markings of clearcuts as opposed to marking every single tree

Your suggestion has been adopted for some situations that occur in the Forest.

312/1716

Acid rain and immigration of new forest pests are serious concerns with which our forests will need to cope with in the future. Can we be assured that our forest will have adequate diversity for their continued existence?

We feel diversity will be maintained under the Forest Plan.

312/1717

We are concerned about requirements regarding timing of management of adjacent timber regeneration units. Wildlife will face loss of use of the regeneration areas for a 3 years period after which vegetation would be allowed to re-invade the stand. We recommend that regeneration areas be managed and buffered as openings until native shrubs have become well re-established (2-3 years following the termination of release).

The establishment of native shrubs following site preparation and release has not been a problem. We anticipate continued invasion and competition of planting stock from brush and grass as you suggest.

312/1787

Given the steep slopes and fragile soils in red fir terrain and the high cost of logging and management practices the intensive harvesting of this species can only be considered a crime. The Forest Service should learn from past mistakes, not compound them. Plan almost casually decides against uneven-age management and gives no consideration to allowing at least selected stands to grow beyond rotation age. A forest is more than a tree farm and should be perpetuated as such.

Steep slopes (over 65 percent) with highly erosive soils will not be logged. Many stands are in management areas with rotations of 140-250 years. Thirty-five thousand acres are now planned for uneven-aged management

312/1798

The Forest should refrain from "monocrop" planting of conifers for the purpose of increasing timber yields. This silvicultural practice depletes the forest of valuable wildlife habitat, thus eliminating food sources for lion prey species. This would be especially damaging in areas that had previously been predominately oak woodland or mixed conifer.

Normally more than one species is planted in mixed conifer stands, In addition, natural seeding of cedar and sugar pine often occur. S&Gs require maintenance of oaks in oak woodlands. Please see S&G #46 of the Draft Plan for detailed requirements.

312/1806

Even-aged silviculture is for the most part, an ecological, economic and aesthetic disaster. There is little dispute that even-aged systems damage the soil vegetation, water quality, scenic quality, wildlife habitat, fisheries and riparian zones. All the restrictions on uneven-aged systems outlined in Standard and Guideline #97 are absurd. This should be the heavily favored system.

Thirty-five thousand acres are scheduled for uneven-aged management in the Final Plan. Alternative E was amended and the Conservation Alternative was added to the FEIS to include alternatives with extensive uneven-aged management.

312/1807

Given the degree of even-aged timber management, I would like information on how the Forest proposes to maintain genetic diversity in both commercial and non-commercial tree species.

Seed is collected from superior trees from the Forest. Seedlings from this seed are our planting stock and form the basis for our continued gene pool. Most of the noncommercial trees such as live oak will sprout and will continue in our stands.

312/1817

The Preferred Alternative dictates 100% even-aged management. This is not reasonable. The Amenity Alternative should tend more toward uneven-aged management particularly group selection.

The Final Plan includes 35,000 acres of uneven-aged management. Alternative E was amended and the Conservation Alternative added to the FEIS to analyze the effects of extensive uneven-aged management

313-SHELTERWOOD/SELECTIVE CUTTING

313/1806

Shelterwood is a poorly studied method and is recognized as likely to cause "mass movement on sensitive watershed lands." Its use must be extremely limited until or unless these impacts can be eliminated or substantially eliminated. Five year monitoring and reporting is far too long to wait if this prescription is to be anything other than VERY limited. Slopes, riparian, fragile soil-- these are obvious constraints on even-aged systems and this recognition must be reflected in the monitoring.

Shelterwood is a recognized silvicultural system that provides shade and a seed source for a new crop of trees. To insure a new crop, trees are planted to supplement the natural seed source. We have not found massive soil movement from the shelterwood method as you describe. Timber sales will be monitored annually and soil movement stations established to make measurements over time

313/1845

In view of what I have seen in the Sierra, I think it would be better and of long term benefit to switch to shelterwood management instead of clearcutting.

Your preference for shelterwood was considered in our analysis. This silvicultural system will be used in stands of red and white fir and adjacent to private property in some situations when uneven-aged management is not appropriate.

314-ROAD CONSTRUCTION/RECONSTRUCTION

314/1681

Road construction should slow down, but equally so logging roads should be more controlled, and restored to original terrain.

Road construction will diminish as the Plan is implemented. We anticipate constructing fewer miles per year in the future than the amount of road construction we have historically seen. Some new roads will be required, however, to achieve the planned outputs. Most of these roads will be maintained on the Forest Development Road System.

314/1806

Road construction is stated to emphasize "economic efficiency", of what? Return to logging companies? If Standard and Guideline #189 indicates a desired "completion" of the road system this is not economic; it would be cheaper to wait until a road is needed than to build it now and have to maintain it. If funds are short, which is recognized as a district possibility, what programs go first?

The reference to "economic efficiency" refers to the modeling process used. This process, described in Appendix B helped determine how many miles of road construction are needed to achieve the timber outputs. The value of the timber harvested will offset the cost of harvesting the timber, including road construction. Most of the planned local road construction will be accomplished by the timber purchaser in support of a particular sale, and accomplished just prior to timber harvest.

314/1858

Road construction and construction under the Preferred Alternative is not adequate to serve the existing timber resources outside of the wilderness area. There are areas where improvements of the existing roads are needed and new roads constructed to access valuable timber stands. Greater recreational experiences will be provided to meet the anticipated diverse recreational needs.

The road construction and reconstruction mileages in the Preferred Alternative will provide adequate access to achieve planned outputs. This includes access to timber stands outside of wilderness areas. We agree that this will also expand the recreation opportunities.

315-TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

315/1055

Efforts should be made to thin reforestation projects that have been successful, and to release the trees for better growth.

The Land Management Plan anticipates thinning and release for almost all regenerated stands.

315/1362

Standard and Guideline #54 must be revised. Tree competition release treatments must be accomplished in such a manner that palatable grasses and forbs, shrub forage and escape cover are constantly provided on at least portions of the harvest units.

Your comment was considered in our final analysis. However, it is felt that three years out of a 140 year rotation is reasonable. Adjacent uncut stands should provide cover. Release treatments will not be as efficient as you envision and grass, forbs, and brush will quickly invade plantations despite release treatments.

316-MANAGEMENT OF LOW SITES

316/1318

I feel that marginal lands should be at least temporarily set aside from timber cutting.

Thank you for your comment. Most of the marginal lands are not included in the timber base. Some marginal lands are selectively logged but the intent is for trees to control the site.

316/1395

The projected prices used in the FORPLAN program seem completely unrealistic. Timber prices are projected to increase seven fold over the life of the Plan and the acreage that is set aside for production is based upon that unrealistic figure. In other words, it puts land which could not now

be profitable into the category of future profitability. It seems to me that these marginal lands should be set aside and protected from any type of development.

Your preference for setting aside lands that are not profitable today was considered in our final analysis.

316/1667

We oppose any new roads into presently roadless areas. We also oppose building into marginal timber areas where a sustained timber yield cannot be obtained.

Thank you for your opinion.

316/1817

Cross-subsidization between valuable and worthless stands should be eliminated.

Timber sales often include trees that are more valuable than others. If only the high value trees were removed, the stand would be "high graded" and the poorest trees would be left. For a more detailed explanation, see response to 311/1533, Section e.

317-REGENERATION/GROWTH

317/0087

Item #92 important, without it seed growth would be severely hurt

Thank you for your support

317/1055, 1369, 1707, 1840 & 1843

The timber harvest should be decreased until such time as success with reforestation is at 80-90%.

Many responses raised the question of whether or not the Forest has been reforesting clearcuts and also all regeneration cuts in the red fir type, with a success level high enough to justify the proposed harvest levels in these two situations

The Forest did substantial amounts of clearcutting in the 1960's and early 1970's. About 20,000 acres were clearcut or burned over by large fires and subsequently planted. Growth and tree conditioning are not meeting management goals on some clearcuts in the red fir forest type that were planted to jeffrey pine during this period. These clearcuts continue to this date to fuel public opposition to clearcutting.

Clearcutting is only proposed in the PP and MC types so the reforestation record in these situations is most important in answering the question The Mariposa and Pineridge Districts have been planting recent clearcuts in PP and MC significantly more than the other two districts so their record is indicative of what can be expected. The following table indicates success rates as of January 1981.

YEAR	ACRES CERTIFIED
1981	55%
1982	85%
1983	61%
1984	85%
1985	81%

In the case of reforesting the red fir type, the Forest can not point to a string of successes, but can point to a trend. The trend is anchored by knowing the technical requirements to do the job such as providing shade with a shelterwood, controlling gopher depredation and high quality site preparation. When these technical aspects come together as they have been on the Pineridge District

since 1983, it is evident that the red fir type can be reforested by careful attention to detail and some extra time

317/1371

It is essential that the forest keeps a close eye on its regeneration success. If regeneration effort fall behind, your going to have to reduce the cut.

Reforestation success is an activity that is specifically covered in the monitoring and evaluation requirement portion of the Land Management Plan. The cut may be reduced if regeneration falls behind.

317/1533

There are many factors not considered in the Plan which can negatively affect regeneration rates. Among these are gradually decreasing air quality in the Forest. The lack of personnel resources for brush control in reforested areas, unpredictable climatic factors such as drought years, soil erosion, and fires. There will be a gradual loss in wood quality as even-age management become the preferred method. Commercial thinning occurs at regular intervals. Process of commercial thinning commonly results in damage to a significant number of trees which are left. If the trunk is damaged and the tree is harvested 20 years later, the first log will be a cull. For trees harvested at 70 years of age, this loss equals 25% of the tree, a factor not considered in even-age yield projections in this Plan

There are several potential influences on the proposed timber management program that are not completely predictable, such as air quality, available labor force, and changes in climatic patterns. Various assumptions had to be made about these and similar influences. Mostly the assumption was that there would be little or no change from the present. Some projections may prove wrong, but the proposed plan has provisions for monitoring and updating which will provide an opportunity to adjust as the validity of the assumptions becomes clearer.

Your statement is true for red and white fir. Extreme care must be taken when commercially thinning these species. If a merchantable tree is damaged it is normally removed at that time rather than wait for decay to take place

The question you raise is should we produce high timber yields or large trees. Determining minimum tree size in 50 to 100 years based upon what today's mills are designed to process is not reasonable. The present mills will be replaced two to five times during the next 50 to 100 years. Minimum sawlog tree is implicit and intended in the NFMA requirements to harvest stands after they are generally culminated. Forest Service direction includes utilization standards projected four decades hence for making yield projections in forest planning. These two requirements indicate that a planning alternative showing maximum yield or present net value would allow the harvest of stands that meet minimum utilization standards and are generally culminated.

The consequences of stipulating a greater than minimum utilizable tree size goal is undesirable from a yield maximization viewpoint. In the case of timber maximization alternative, the real maximum allowable sale quantity will not be revealed under such a stipulation. This means the cost of growing timber to larger sizes is hidden. A subtle but real consequence of longer rotation is that more land must be devoted to intensive timber production to meet the same yield requirement. This comes about because allowing stands to linger beyond growth culmination requires lands on which to store stands growing at less than optimum rates until the trees attain the stipulated diameters.

Under the preferred alternative the minimum rotation on Regulation Class II lands is 140 years. On Regulation Class I lands some stands are harvested at the minimum age of 50-60 years with the average being about 80 years.

317/1542

Reforestation Backlog. We note on pp. 3-68 DEIS that the old plan had an implied regeneration harvest level of 5,200 acres annually. Because of these statements and others, we sense a backlog of land exists that requires reforestation. If this is the case, we believe the acreage of even-aged management planned for Alternative A cannot be regenerated based on prior performance.

The Forest never reached a level of 5,200 acres per year of regeneration harvest. There is a small reforestation back log which results because of the time between logging, sale closure, site preparation & planting. This means it normally takes three years between the time that a stand is logged until it is planted.

317/1591 & 1737

Another problem I see is the plan's projections for timber growth. They are unrealistic. Inventory shows that the growth of existing stands for timber growth is much lower than that predicted by the yield tables used in the plan. Unforeseen factors need to be considered, such as fires, erosion, storms, drought and air pollution, etc

The existing timber stands are mostly unmanaged. New stands would be released from brush competition and thinned to increase growth as indicated by the yield tables. In addition, the growth used in the computer model is growth that has been measured on the Forest. This model predicts an increased growth rate of 1-2% which seems realistic.

317/1669

4-27, #87, S&G needs qualifiers. Restricted to yum yard, restricted by season, restricted should not include collecting firewood from anywhere in the general forest

S&G #87 of the Draft Plan refers to giving the public the highest priority for gathering fuelwood. The primary emphasis will include fuelwood along logging roads and landings. Other S&Gs requiring down logs must also be met. Snag felling by the public will not be permitted except under tightly controlled conditions.

4-28, #95 The policy of replanting naturally occurring tree species from timber sale areas should continue regardless of the prevailing market conditions and preferences.

Thank you for supporting this practice.

4-28, #96. Using only phenotypically superior seed for reforestation will lead to a reduction in genetic variability across the forest over a long period of time.

You are correct, but the reduction would be advantageous since it would tend to reduce the number of poor quality trees in the forest.

Reforestation Success - 9,000 acres as an indication for action is too high

The figure probably appears high because it includes acres that are untreated as well as acres in various stages of preparation for reforestation. When more than one preparation treatment is necessary it typically takes more than one year to do the work. The acres are included in this tally until reforestation takes place

317/1711

Every attempt should be made to get understocked lands back into production by using all resources possible. Use of private reforestation contractors should be increased if the understocked lands continue to remain unregenerated.

Thank you for voicing your opinion. Private contractors are currently used for almost all our planting projects

317/1716

With respect to the regeneration rates, we feel the projected timber base is overly optimistic. In order to achieve the 5% per compartment old growth and the minimal number of snags and SMZ a reduced cut may be necessary.

Monitoring is being scheduled to ensure all aspects of the plan are met. Snags are a concern and a new S&G has been added to strengthen the base from which snags will come if the S&G is not met.

317/1843

Even-aged stands, assuming some success of reforestation, of trees not allowed to grow more than 60 to 80 years invite attacks of pests and pathological organisms which could destroy the stands before they would be mature enough for harvest.

Please see Appendix J, Risk of Significant Pest Damage for a response to your point about even-aged stands inviting pest attacks.

317/1859

Planting of sites which are difficult because of herbal competition, soils, or aspects should not be deferred until some magical solution is found. Slow growth should be accepted; some growth is better than none. Planting of these difficult sites today can add some years to the rotation age because of slower growth. Waiting for a future date when herbicides can be used to plant will add the waiting period to the rotation.

Harvested areas, except where brush such as bear clover cannot be controlled, are promptly reforested. Some vegetation can only be controlled by herbicide. These areas are not being reforested until they can be sprayed.

318-DEFICIT TIMBER SALES

318/1266 & 1392

Timber production in the SNF is costing the taxpayers money and your "cross subsidation" program will make it worse. I FAVOR MINIMUM BID PRICES FOR TIMBER

All timber sales have minimum bid prices. Timber production on the SNF makes money for the taxpayer. See 311/1533 Section e for a detailed explanation of "cross subsidation."

318/1579

In the plan, your method of calculating timber production uses a measure of cubic feet of wood. Yet your sales must be made in board feet and a timber company gets as much as 1/3 less wood in board feet, usable wood, as there are cubic feet. How can you make a profit that way? It's a method that cheats the public and frankly that means me too.

The cubic foot measure is a requirement of the NFMA regulation 36CFR219-16 (a) (2) (iii) and utilization standards established in the Pacific Southwest Regional Guide. The Forest sells timber by the board foot, a company bids on this timber by the board foot and then the company pays for the timber by the board foot. The public is not cheated in this process. The Plan includes timber production in cubic feet because it is uncertain what products will be removed from the Forest in the future. For example, trees used for particle board and chips are best measured and sold by the cubic foot to give our customers and the public value for value.

318/1601

No one alternative is worthy of being the guiding document for the future of the SNF. Alternative E is the closest to the way the forest should be managed but the allowable cut is too high and developed recreation gets inadequate attention. Choice for a forest plan alternative would include the following element: annual cut to less than 75 MMBF. Maximum clear-cut size of 5 acres. Elimination of Livestock grazing. End to timber industry subsidy (See 1601, #9).

An alternative similar to the one you propose was considered. See Conservation Alternative in Section 2 of the FEIS.

318/1715

The Draft EIS attempts to justify below-cost timber sales on the grounds that these sales produce "benefits" beyond just the value of the timber produced. If benefits other than timber are to be used to justify these sales, then the detriments caused by below-cost sales (such as soil erosion, loss of recreational opportunities, loss of old growth visual amenities and animal habitat) should be quantified and their value subtracted (See 1715, #8, p 4)

See Response to 040/1369.

318/1716

CNPS feels especially strong about unbalanced resource utilization when the revenues received for forest products are not adequate to recover expenditures (below cost timber and range), or to repair damage that results. CNPS objects to this unbalanced management and feels that below cost services are not in the public's best interest, and cannot be justified given the current demand for lumber and meat protein raised on public lands.

See response to 040/1369

CNPS requests that SNF adopt the timber harvest portion of Alt. E and incorporate it within preferred alternatives. Do not believe it is in the public's best interest to continue logging and road building into previously untouched roadless areas. The DEIS states that mature PP stands are rare. CNPS supports preservation of the remaining stands and encourages that one be set aside as SIA or RNA as proposed in the plan.

Your preference for the timber harvest portion of Alternative E and the maintenance of unroaded areas was considered in our analysis. The Bishop Creek Pacific Ponderosa Pine Research Natural Area has been established as you recommend.

318/1804

I was surprised to read that the SNF timber sales program operates at a deficit. Based on the CHEC report, I wonder if some of the deficit is due to cross-subsidization of less valuable species like the true firs in timber sales. Although the mill capacity to process whatever the forest produces is stated to exist, a concentration upon more valuable species and the highest-site lands might increase forest income and be a better investment for society.

The Forest's timber program made a profit in 1987. Logging only high value species would "high grade" a stand leaving only lower value species as a source of regeneration. See response to 040/1369 and 311/1533 Section e.

I also find the price trend for timber remarkable, the 4.8% trend for the first decade is a rate at which timber prices would double in about 15 years. I do not think present actual trends are treating this prediction very kindly.

See response to 398/1591.

318/1806

The underestimation of the significance of economics is underscored by its omission from the major summary of issues. This deficiency is most apparent in the faulty timber and other commodity production goals vis-a-vis natural resource protection already discussed. This is also reflected in the "present net value" which ignores land health and long term costs.

The budget was made an issue and the economic sections of the FEIS strengthened. In addition, a budget section was added to the Appendix. The basis for the cash and non-cash benefits used in the analysis is described in Appendix B. They were derived for the 1985 RPA using methods that are well established in the resource economic literature. For additional reference see Appendix F of both the 1985 RPA FEIS and DEIS.

320-MANAGEMENT OF REDWOOD GROVES (NELDER AND MCKINLEY GROVES)

320/0199

I would like to make a statement regarding the proposed management of the two Giant Sequoia Groves within the Forest. Your Alternative E best describes the future management of the 2 areas. There are several means of reducing the white fir canopy. A controlled wildfire has been used, and in some areas the pine and fir have been harvested and logging slash piled and burned. I prefer the latter, harvested trees pay for costs of the Giant Sequoia management and with logging equipment in the area, soil is loosened to improve the seedbed for Giant Sequoia.

We agree with your ideas on logging the white woods in the Sequoia groves. Alternative A should have had the same statement as Alternative E. "Logging to perpetuate the Sequoia species".

If and when there is any logging in Nelder and McKinley Groves, the Forest Service has an excellent opportunity to accomplish some visual improvement for visitors.

Visual quality will be one of our objectives if and when we log in either of the two groves.

All of the proposed management practices cannot be accomplished without a vigorous educational program. It is necessary that the general public realize that Giant Sequoia Groves can be "loved to death" by complete protection.

We agree that public education is an important part of Giant Sequoia management.

320/1213

In the FORPLAN, Nelder and McKinley Groves are proposed for Special Interest Areas. I agree that they both are well qualified for such designation.

Thank you for your support.

Plan pg 4-48 #340 - Applicable to Analysis Area in Management Area 4, if a fuels reduction is planned for Nelder Grove, the work would most certainly eliminate the food chain for the spotted owls. The highest priority for Nelder Grove is to reduce the understory around the oldgrowths. Adopting the Nelder Grove management plan as part of the Forest Plan and developing the visitor centers and trails would be well accepted by the visitors to the areas.

The fuels reduction will reduce only small areas of white fir reproduction, so the effect on spotted owls will be insignificant. We do have a Nelder Grove Spotted Owl Plan that addresses your question in more detail. Thank you for your support concerning the visitor information centers.

Plan pg 4-71, Management Area 9, Analysis Area 15, Nelder Historical Area is proposed to preserve Giant Sequoias and early logging. Historic railroad grade will be destroyed if the Basin Timber Sale includes that area.

If the Forest ever decides to log out the white woods, the old railroad will be preserved. As of now the area is scheduled to become a showplace for demonstrating the old railroad logging methods.

320/1333

We strongly disagree with the Forest Service philosophy that harvesting timber in these special botanical areas is necessary or desirable for proper regeneration. It is the League's position that a carefully monitored conservatively implemented prescribed burning program is the least damaging and most appropriate method to encourage regeneration in the Giant Sequoia Groves.

We agree that fire is one method of encouraging redwood regeneration and its use is planned. However, prescribed fire is not selective and does not remove the larger competing white woods. We feel selective timber harvesting of white woods is essential to perpetuate the giant sequoias. The timber in Nelder & McKinley Groves has been removed from the regulated harvest. Logging in the groves will be initiated to improve the growing conditions for the redwoods.

320/1787

I applaud giving Nelder Grove status as a Special Interest Area. However, the plan gives the impression that as far as non-Sequoia species are concerned it is timber business as usual. Nelder is special, not only for its Sequoias and historical remains, but also for the large number of mature Ponderosa and Sugar Pines and Cedars in and around the Sequoia Groves. Any management plan that does not provide for the preservation of the character of this stand is flawed. Timber harvest in SIAs should be limited to only those trees necessary for hazard reduction and for sequoia regeneration

We are preserving natural mixed conifer, ponderosa pine, with white fir and red fir ecosystems through the Research Natural Area program. This program identifies specific areas that have certain species in a natural state. These areas are then used for research on that species. Nelder Grove's emphasis is on the Giant Sequoia and the historical railroad logging that took place there.

321-FUELWOOD

321/1811

Firewood harvesting has a detrimental impact on cavity dependent species of wildlife and should be greatly reduced and controlled.

Harvesting of dead standing trees for fuelwood has been greatly reduced. Normally lodgepole pine snags are the only fuelwood snags that are removed. In most cases, there are plenty of lodgepole snags. S&Gs have been strengthened to include leaving dead trees where there is an identified snag deficiency.

323-TIMBER ECONOMY

323/1348

Timber can perpetually replenish itself. It is a natural renewable resource that responds well to proper management. If we fail to keep our domestic lumber readily available to the users of the commodity, we will soon find that our lumber needs will be met by foreign suppliers.

We agree that timber is a natural renewable resource that responds well to proper management. The issue is, how many acres should be dedicated to growing timber and to what rotation age should stands be grown. We feel the Final Plan is the most appropriate mix of land management distributions and rotation ages.

323/1392

The plan should establish minimum bid prices for SNF timber which would reduce the losses now occurring in timber sales.

All timber sales have minimum bid prices. Timber production on the Forest makes money for the taxpayers.

323/1542

Neither the forest plan nor the DEIS identify the volume of mortality that exists. The volume of mortality annually generated over a 10 year period is undoubtedly substantial. We recommend the DEIS be amended to identify the volume of annual mortality.

Thank you for pointing this out. The FEIS includes the annual recovery of 9 MMBF of mortality.

323/1615

It is imperative that the timber industry should be able to continue operations. Under this management plan, it should be emphasized that protection also be maintained for the environment and wildlife habitat as well as designated recreation areas. The alternative that would fit the needs of the people would be C-RPA.

Your preference for Alternative C was considered in our analysis.

323/1703

Harvesting a renewable natural resource to provide much needed products for all nation's people is a noble endeavor National forests for multiple use and not multiple preservation

Thank you for your comment.

323/1737

I feel you should reconsider the unreasonable economic and pricing assumptions used to evaluate the future timber values. Average prices/1000BF seem very high Also, the future prices are not likely to increase at the rates predicted in the plan.

The Forest estimates timber prices for the life of the Plan based on the average for the period 1978-1982. Prices have escalated in recent years and are reasonable in light of recent trends. Prices will be monitored during implementations of the Plan, and extreme changes in market prices may lead to the need to amend the Plan (Please see Appendix B.)

324-COGENERATION PLANT AT NORTH FORK

324/0663

The cogeneration power plants in use up here from the wood by products benefit everyone.

We agree that there are many benefits from the three cogeneration plants at SFI mills.

324/1598

The alternative that seems the best to me is C-RPA. This way we will still have our recreation plus the North Fork Mill could build their cogeneration plant which would keep many people in our community employed and provide extra energy for our utility company.

Your preference for Alternative C was considered in our analysis.

325-TIMBER HARVEST LAND BASE

325/0210

The improvements to the plan that I have to offer are more Wilderness especially the KRRR. Less land for timber and grazing

The Kings River Roadless Area issue was resolved by the creation of the Kings River Special Management Area. Your preference for less timber and grazing was considered in our analysis.

325/0211

I would like to see less timber harvesting (acres).

Your preference for less timber harvesting was considered in our analysis.

Only quality timber lands should be considered. Sensitive systems being closed to logging operations.

Your preference for logging only on quality (high site) timber lands was considered in our analysis.

325/0517

I am against removal of acreage from the existing timber base and putting it into special restricted use classifications such as stream zones, visual corridors, buffer zones on wilderness areas, and roadless "de facto wilderness areas" without consideration of all alternatives to conventional management techniques, i e , helicopter logging.

Helicopter logging and other alternatives were considered when decisions were made. Your preference for increasing the timber base was considered in our analysis

325/0719

Part of the basic creation and existence of these trees is for the purpose of using them for building materials and other items. They provide beauty, recreation, homes, and structures. Surely, the wisest use is to meet all these needs in a balanced manner. I urge you to choose a plan of developed marketability for this timber and recreation area. One third of the forest not too large a portion for this purpose.

The FEIS attempts to appropriate a balanced mix of trade-offs. Thank you for your opinion.

325/1222

Timber harvest constraints should add protection for timber on meadow fringes just as with riparian zones for wildlife and aesthetic values The plan lacks any such restraints.

Your input was considered by the ID Team. Meadows are protected in most cases by SMZs. Where there is no stream or the stream is more than 100 feet from the edge of the meadow, fringe trees are left for screening. S&Gs protect meadows surface from equipment and logging wet meadows is prohibited

325/1417

I feel projected future timber prices are unrealistically high, resulting in an overestimation of the amount of land that is considered valuable for future timber production.

See response to 323/1737.

325/1640

I endorse harvesting of all CAS lands within the forest, including sensitive areas.

Your input was considered in our analysis

325/1702

Forty-one percent, or 528,000 acres of Sierra Forest land have been set aside as wilderness. Another 353,000 acres are not "capable available or suitable" for timber management. That leaves only 394,000 acres within the forest's productive timberland base. SFI believes that these 394,000 acres must be managed primarily for timber production While this land can provide other multiple use benefits, the dominant use should be timber growth and harvest

Your viewpoint was considered in our analysis.

325/1717 & 1806

We recommend consideration of steep slope tractor logging should include a fishery biologist or hydrologist to evaluate the possible effects of the activity upon the downstream watershed and fishery resources. Particular care should be taken in areas having unstable soils, or which are adjacent to watersheds inhabited by threatened or endangered aquatic species.

Thank you for your input. Steep slopes (over 65 percent) with unstable soils will not be logged. In watersheds inhabited by threatened species, not only do fisheries biologists from the Forest Service and Fish and Game review the project but biologists from the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service as well. Modifications to the proposed timber sale are made if there are any adverse impacts.

330-VEGETATION

330/1341

I have witnessed over these last 40 years a continued degradation of the Sierra Nevada by the encroachment of people who are altering and destroying the ecosystems.

The Forest Service attempts to fulfill its responsibility of protecting natural environments, while carrying out other management activities related to recreation and resource use. Sometimes, these are conflicting goals that give priority to one activity over another. At other times, natural or human events cause ecological problems that are beyond the scope of the Forest to prevent.

330/1365

The central core of the valley cannot take extreme ecological or conservation measures which will destroy the future of this area.

The Forest Plan is a balance of resource uses and preservation measures which try to meet the needs of the area.

331-CHAPPARAL MANAGEMENT

331/1055

Decisions on areas of chaparral to be converted to grassland should be made on a biological rather than an economic basis. Where the two issues conflict, the biological issue should take precedence.

The Forest Service and cooperating agencies, such as the California Department of Fish and Game, have been using prescribed burning in chaparral for many years. The recommended chaparral management program will be a multibenefitting program implemented to provide a balance of diversity of age classes of browse, reduce heavy fuel loads for fire protection, provide forage production for grazing, and enhance wildlife habitat and recreation access.

331/1178

Chaparral conversion projects (such as Jose Basin) must be designed in a mosaic pattern that will enhance habitat for wildlife as well as cattle. Browseways and plots of herbaceous forage must be left in the conversion area.

The recommended chaparral management program will provide a balance of age class diversity, distribution, and is designed to benefit fire management, grazing, recreation access, and enhancement of wildlife habitat. Brush treatment projects on ridgetops and prescribed burns are management tools to achieve these goals.

331/1393

The plan to convert chaparral to rangeland for cattle is highly erroneous. The current plans to burn and use herbicides is not in the best interest of the public or wild species of plants or animals. This conversion plan should be eliminated.

Use of EPA approved herbicides in a manner prescribed on the label are useful tools to maintain openings in the chaparral which have multibenefits for range, wildlife, fire management, and recreation access. Type conversions will not be used as a management tool.

331/1658

Alternative H is acceptable regarding Chaparral.

Thank you for your comment.

331/1669

While we support vegetation management through fire, type conversion is not appropriate at the level prescribed here (1380 acres/year). Every acre type converted must be maintained by discing, rapid rotation burning, or chemicals.

The chaparral management program will include brush crushing and prescribed burning, primarily on ridgetops, which breaks up the homogeneous heavy brush cover along the front country. Maintenance needs will not be that frequent, however management tools such as discing, burning, grazing, and perhaps, herbicides will be available for use.

332-HARDWOODS

332/1393

Oak tree numbers and the amount of canopy should be reduced.

See response to 332/1484.

332/1484

Oak trees should be managed less extensively in prime timber production areas. There are adequate oak stands in non-timber harvesting areas.

The Forest Service is directed to manage all species at viable levels. In addition we cooperate with the California Department of Fish and Game on meeting population goals for several game species. It is therefore necessary to manage oaks at a level which is consistent with both goals.

332/1703

Do not manage for minimum oak crown closure on regenerated areas. Oaks for wildlife occur throughout the forest in rocky areas, canyons, and natural islands. Management for more oak in the CAS lands is neither necessary or desirable.

See response to 332/1484

332/1819

The oak retention management for big game should be eliminated. Two alternatives adopt oak retention and we believe it is unnecessary to maintain the big game population.

Management of big game populations, such as deer, are the responsibility of the California Dept of Fish and Game. They establish target population levels for each deer herd. The oak standards were one of several items discussed with CDFG to meet the population goals.

333-RIPARIAN AREAS

333/0178

Are there enough designated riparian areas?

See responses 333/1520, 1682 and 1055

333/0307

No logging should be allowed in streamside zones as these are highly fragile ecosystems. Livestock must also be excluded from riparian and degraded areas.

Please see our revised S&Gs in the FEIS and FLMP that describe our riparian management commitments and strategies. On project level basis, our riparian area protection and streamside management zone determinations are based on methods described in FSH 2509.22, Supplement 1, which takes into account stream class, side slope corrections, percent of ground cover, equipment operation and various other topics. At a recent Forest ID Team Meeting it was decided to keep a minimal amount of scheduled harvest in the regulated timber base, with a 250-year rotation and an emphasis on control of insect and disease problems. By utilizing the S&Gs and our manual supplement, we plan to give primary management emphasis to riparian dependent resources and to maintain existing vegetative conditions in the riparian areas.

333/0464

Riparian zone management is not actively pursued under any Plan alternative. This issue is a concern as it neglects opportunities to reduce (1) consumptive water losses caused by overly dense vegetation and (2) sources of flood detritus originating in those areas.

Riparian management is basically the same in all alternatives; that is a strategy to provide protection and enhancement of riparian areas. Although riparian areas do consume large quantities of water, the current laws protect riparian dependent vegetation from removal. Under the direction of improvement, debris would be removed if there was a chance it could or would be carried downstream during floods and cause downstream damage.

333/0755

I recommend protecting watersheds and its associated fauna and flora from erosion and further dam building.

See response to 382/1520, 1231, and 388/1231.

333/1055

It is critically imperative that an inventory of riparian habitat be completed as soon as possible.

Riparian areas on the Forest will be inventoried and mapped during the next planning cycle. Areas that are obviously in fair or poor condition will be added to the Forest Watershed Improvement Needs Inventory list and prioritized for project completion.

333/1222

Vegetation management in riparian zones needs to be clarified. The Plan, pg. 4-25 states only that such management will maintain "Forestwide conditions." We need protection of meadow fringes

The Plan states that since riparian deciduous zones are one of the most important wildlife habitats, all management activities must be done in a manner that maintains current conditions Forestwide. See the revised S&Gs in the FEIS, Sec. 2 5 3.2 and the FLMP, Sec. 4 5 for a description of Forest meadow protection. Also see response 333/1669.

333/1313

We are pleased that both the Plan and DEIS clearly provide information that the Forest will protect riparian systems and extend the streamside management zone to protect sensitive species such as the Lahontan cutthroat trout.

Thank you for your support

Support reductions in AUM's, cattle severely impact riparian zones and wet meadows.

See response to 333/1520

333/1362

On pg 4-50 of the DEIS you state that harvesting will occur in riparian zones during periodic entries and that proposed additional grazing will increase the potential for bank and vegetation trampling. NFMA regulations, Forest Service Manual direction and regional planning direction all indicate that activities should not be allowed in riparian areas that negatively impact riparian-dependent species. Standards must be developed that prevent timber harvesting in riparian habitat unless needed by riparian species and that control livestock impacts.

Please see our revised and strengthened S&Gs in the Plan, Sec. 4.5.2.6 & 7 and in the EIS Sec. 2.5.3.2. Also see response to 333/1520, 1777 and 0307.

There should be no riparian protective zone of less than 100 feet horizontal distance from the edge of the stream. That is the minimum set by law

See response to 333/1520 and 0307.

333/1393

The river areas should all be protected from timber harvesting depending upon slope, soil characteristics and understory. The loss of vegetation and siltation of the streams is rapidly leading to an increasing loss of wildlife.

See response to 333/0307.

Riparian species are a part of a forest. Riparian areas should be inventoried, published and maintained.

During the next planning cycle riparian areas on the Forest will be inventoried and mapped. This information will be used to better define specific objectives for individual areas

333/1418

Riparian zones should be protected from the damaging impacts of logging, OHV use, mining and grazing.

S&Gs protecting the riparian area can be found in Sec. 4.5.2.6 & 7 and in the EIS Sec. 2.5.3.2. Also, see response to 333/1520, 1777 and 0307.

333/1520

In order to adequately protect wetlands, the following guidelines should be used: Class I, II, and III streams have visual quality objectives of retention or preservation. Within the SMZ, old growth conifers or hardwoods should be retained for large woody debris development needed for stream stability and fish habitat. New road systems should be designed to minimize disturbance to riparian areas. Log landings should not be located within riparian zones. Trees should not be felled into streams, lakes, or bogs

Currently our Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) objectives are similar to those objectives defined for visual quality retention. Both SMZ management and visual quality management are under Reg. Class III (250 year rotation harvest), described in Appendices Sec. 2.3.1. Riparian and streamside management is described in the S&Gs in EIS Sec. 2.5.3.2 and Plan Sec. 4.5.2.6 & .7. Proposed timber sales will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, by an ID team composed of various specialists, who define requirements for retention of woody debris, the need to directionally fall trees

away from natural features, and identify the location of log landings. Also, see response to 333/0307

Develop specific standards and guidelines to maintain riparian areas in near natural conditions when impacted by hydroelectric power projects or livestock uses.

Please see revised S&Gs in Sec. 4.5.2.6 and 7 of the Plan, and Sec. 2.5.3.2 of the EIS

Monitor and restrict use associated with high recreational use impacts in riparian areas.

Our final Plan has incorporated your suggestion in S&Gs Sec. 4.5.2.6 of the Plan, and Sec. 2.5.3.2 of the EIS.

What are "designated" riparian zones?

Riparian Management Areas are defined as "All areas within a horizontal distance of approximately 100 feet from the edge of perennial streams, lakes and other bodies of water". Riparian Management Area boundaries must include aquatic ecosystems, floodplains, and riparian ecosystems/wetlands. These areas are to be managed emphasizing protection and improvement of soil, water, vegetation, fish, and wildlife resources, giving preferential consideration to riparian dependent resources when conflicts among land use activities occur.

Stocking rates should be reduced, and riparian mitigation should be increased. Stocking increases are not adequately discussed regarding impacts to riparian, lake and meadow habitats. Plan assumes that livestock will spend equal amounts of time throughout various range types. Impacts need to be reassessed in view of grazing preference for riparian, lake, and meadow habitats. High mountain meadow streams, which are particularly sensitive and important to trout, must be completely excluded from grazing activities

Stocking increases during winter and spring will be recommended in the low elevation country after completion of range improvements. Generally, livestock will disperse throughout the annual rangelands due to the availability of palatable forage at that time of year. Increases in stocking levels will not occur in the higher elevation meadows and riparian areas. Stocking rates and season of use are determined during the revision or update of Allotment Management Plans. In addition, during the update of the Annual Operating Plan (AOP), specific management requirements needed to protect or improve areas are identified, discussed with the permittees, and incorporated into the Plan. Please see the S&Gs in Sec 4.5.2.6 and .7 of the Plan, and Sec 2.5.3.2 of the EIS for our commitment to protect riparian areas and riparian dependent resources.

333/1611

I feel it is important that an inventory of the flora and fauna of riparian habitat be conducted, so that any future impacts (management, timber sales, hydroelectric activities) can be determined.

The Forest will be conducting inventories of riparian habitat during the next planning cycle, which will become part of the monitoring program in the Forest Plan.

333/1669

The Plan offers direction for protecting meadows. We fail to find any such direction on how much meadow edge can be opened during timber harvesting.

Reference for protection of meadows in the DEIS was under Riparian S&Gs. Please see Sec. 2.5.3.2 of the FEIS, and Sec 4.5.2.6 of the the final Plan for more specific S&Gs relating to meadow protection

ID teams are assigned to each proposed timber sale on the Forest. Opportunities for creating openings in meadow edges are evaluated and developed on a case-by-case basis by a wildlife biologist.

The statement made in Standard and Guideline 77 may negate mitigation activities. For example, when deciduous shrubs are extensively planted, a loss of ground forage will occur

This S&G refers to restricting activities that have potential to create a downward trend in the overall health of the meadow and is not intended to restrict any activities that would assist in returning a degraded meadow to a good or better condition.

We recommend that guidelines be specified to maintain riparian areas in near natural conditions when impacted by hydroelectric and livestock uses.

Specific mitigation measures for maintenance of riparian habitat during hydroelectric development are spelled out in the Forest Service 4e letters to proponents or licensees. Identified conflicts with livestock grazing are resolved on a case-by-case basis in Allotment Management Plans, or in annual operating plans See S&Gs in FEIS Sec. 2.5.3.2, and in the final Plan, Sec 4 5 2 6.

The Forest should consider ways of monitoring and restricting impacts associated with intensive recreational use of riparian and riverine habitats.

We have tried to achieve a balance in the Forest Plan between user groups. We recognize that user groups make different recreational uses of riparian and riverine habitats. However, the management of the Forest is based on the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 that states ".the Forest shall be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes." Forest administrators are obligated to manage the land for these multiple uses. We have incorporated your suggestions in our final Plan by strengthening our riparian S&Gs in Sec. 2.5.3 2 of the FEIS, and Sec. 4 5.2.6 of the Plan

333/1682

Riparian habitats, most crucial for wildlife, have been target areas for heavy multiple use conflicts and impacts "The riparian areas in the Forest have not been individually inventoried and mapped." We need a riparian inventory and management plan. Identify on maps the location of planned timber sales and road construction affecting riparian areas in the next decade. Estimate runoff, sedimentation, water quality impacts on riparian areas from upstream timbering, road and other associated activities.

The Forest will be conducting inventories of riparian habitats during the first planning cycle of the Plan. Currently, a proposed 10-year timber sale action program is planned and updated each year. As some timber sales are prepared, sold, and harvested, additions and deletions to the 7-year timber harvest schedule occur. Tentative sale areas are mapped and kept in Ranger District files. Estimating runoff, sedimentation, and other potential water quality impacts that can have an affect on the riparian ecosystem will be carried out in those specific cases where problems are most likely to occur. These cases will be identified in the environmental analysis of the proposed project.

In addition to the Forest's 100-foot riparian corridor on each side of streams and lakes, expand the zone to include all riparian vegetation and buffer zones where appropriate to maintain and restore sensitive - wildlife habitat Do not allow campgrounds, roads, trails, OHVs, and timber operations, and phase out all cattle grazing from the zone

Normally all riparian vegetation will exist within the Riparian Management Area established along all perennial streams. Under the Streamside Management Zone guidelines, all other streams, with or without riparian areas, are also protected. All other uses within the riparian area, if not benefitting the riparian ecosystem, will only be allowed if they will cause no damage, or if the damage can be mitigated. Grazing within riparian areas is acceptable, as long as no excessive damage occurs. The use in these areas is monitored and the cattle are managed according to a grazing allotment plan.

333/1684

Concerning riparian, I prefer the management under Alternatives A and E.

Thank you for your comment

333/1702

Full range of multiple uses (including timber) could be allowed in some riparian areas.

Under existing laws and direction, all management within riparian areas should be to the benefit, improvement and maintenance of riparian dependant species and the riparian ecosystem. If another use would not hurt the riparian ecosystem or if impacts could be mitigated, this use could be allowed within the Riparian Management Area (RMA). Timber harvest is permitted and is scheduled in such areas where these other resources will not be adversely effected. We do not believe it is appropriate to trade other resource values for timber production in riparian areas See response to 333/0307.

333/1703

There is an opportunity to increase timber production on riparian lands without damage to other resources. These lands could be managed for timber production with current restrictions. I question the 100-foot width of riparian zones.

The only opportunity to increase timber production within riparian management areas is to enhance water quality, fisheries, soils, and wildlife values within the riparian ecosystem The 100 feet on each side of all perennial streams is derived from 36 CFR 219.27e See response to 333/0307 also.

333/1716

A problem with the Plan is that it does not describe the amounts, proportion, and location of damaged riparian and meadow habitats Meadow communities are barely mentioned in the Plan, regardless of the short supply of intact meadows on public lands, their value as reserves of high plant species diversity, and their importance to dependent plant and wildlife species. Intact mountain meadows are so scarce on public lands, you need to protect the remaining ones from abuse.

Riparian and meadow restoration opportunities on the Forest are identified on a continuous basis and prioritized through our Watershed Improvement Needs Inventory. These projects are funded through a variety of sources from timber sale KV dollars, to specially allocated funds from Congress. All of the projects are valuable in meeting our goals to maintain and improve fishery habitat and water quality on the Forest. See S&Gs in Sec. 4.5.2.6 of the Plan, and Sec. 2.5.3.2 of the FEIS.

We object to the use of an arbitrary 100-foot zone from the edge of water to represent the riparian zone (4-6 of Plan) or Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) Wetland habitats or vegetation can extend beyond this limit, and this definition does not take into consideration springs, seeps, or wide meadows. Request that protection is based upon the presence of wetland indicator plants, wetland soil types, and certain types of hydrologic situations We believe that limiting SMZs to perennial creeks is totally inadequate. SMZs should include Class I streams and greater.

In ground truthing a portion of the perennial streams on the Sierra, it was found that in most cases, the designated 100-foot zone included all of the riparian vegetation Riparian vegetation outside the 100-foot will also be protected. We have clarified this point in the final EIS and Plan SMZ delineations are not restricted simply to perennial streams, but are designated for Class I-IV streams. Zone widths are designated on all sensitive streams within a project area, and vary depending on slope. See response 333/0307.

CNPS is opposed to the Forest's plan to log in SMZs. Other National Forests in California have withdrawn such proposals, and CNPS feels the Forest should do the same. We request that logging only occurs for disease or insect control, SMZs should not be included in the Forest's timber base for computer modeling and determining the forest's "cut" If logging occurs in SMZs, describe techniques to be used to harvest the trees and amount of canopy cover that shall be left intact, etc. Recommend specific definition for canopy closure of 70%, multilayered understory.

Your proposal to exclude riparian volume from the ASQ was discussed and evaluated at a Forest ID Team Meeting It was decided to keep the riparian volume in the regulated harvest base. However, there will be a 250 year rotation in the riparian areas, and proposed harvests will emphasize the control of insects and diseases as you suggested See responses to 333/1520 for additional information concerning activities in the riparian areas.

CNPS objects to impacts to riparian and meadow habitats from Forest regulated land use, especially overutilization by livestock. Standards and guidelines need to be improved, and more strictly enforced. Standards and Guidelines 59 and 60 should add native vegetation as a resource to be protected in riparian areas.

Based on public input, we have revised and strengthened our S&Gs in the riparian sections of the FEIS and Plan. We have incorporated your suggestions to protect native vegetation in riparian areas.

The Plan and DEIS do not describe the amounts, proportion, and location of damaged riparian and meadow habitats. Request these details be presented, and commitments to restore degraded sites be made and included in the standards and guidelines.

See response to 333/1716 and our revised and strengthened Riparian S&Gs in the FEIS, Sec 2.5.3.2 and the FLMP Sec. 4.5.2.6

Meadow communities are barely mentioned in the Plan. Request that the following items be included in the riparian/meadow standards and guidelines: no seeding or planting nonnative plant species, BMPs implemented to protect meadow vegetation and maintain plant cover, where uses conflict, favor meadow-dependent resources over others, utilization of meadow vegetation shall not exceed levels set in Forest Service Manual, forest management shall not result in meadow degradation including loss of vegetative cover and soil, or reductions in species diversity, meadows will be inventoried, and most significant, will be protected and managed by use of special management prescription with customized grazing regimes and monitoring.

Many of the points discussed in your comment reflect our standard operating procedures. We do not have the space to duplicate all of our Forest Service Manual direction in our planning document. See response to 333/1520, 1806 and 1777.

If the proposed livestock stocking rates are not reduced, CNPS feels the potential adverse impact to wetland, riparian, and meadow habitats, sensitive plants, and possibly perennial ranges should be recognized in Chapter 4 of the DEIS. There is no proposed monitoring to study impact of the proposed livestock increases. SNF should be obligated to determine that the increases proposed do not result in adverse impacts.

The Forest will be conducting inventories of riparian areas during the first planning cycle of the Plan. A bird guild concept will be utilized to monitor riparian areas. In addition, periodic monitoring of range conditions takes place, in association with the individual Allotment Management Plans on the Forest. Proposed increases in livestock grazing will occur in the annual grass/chaparral zone after wildlife and range improvements are completed. Livestock grazing in the higher elevation areas will not be increased. See response to 333/1520, 1806 and 1777.

333/1777

We support maximum riparian protection and therefore endorse SMZs. Rather than fixed zone widths, however, we feel that a zone width as a function of slope might afford more realistic protection. Please consider adopting language for increasing width as slope increases.

This point will be clarified in the final Plan. The Forest uses a set of guidelines that vary the SMZ width with the slope as suggested. See response to 333/0307.

EIS should fully describe the impacts of grazing. Cattle severely impact riparian zones and wet meadows. Cattle contribute to erosion and the resulting siltation of streams.

Your point is well taken. We recognize there is potential for cattle grazing to cause isolated stream channel degradation. Allotment Management Plans are used to ensure protection of riparian areas from livestock impacts. Positive measures such as salting, hardening, water developments, fencing, and riding, are used to improve livestock distribution and minimize riparian impacts. If mitigation is unsuccessful in preventing unacceptable resource damage to the riparian habitat, as a last resort, livestock grazing will be reduced or eliminated in the affected areas. See response 333/1520 also.

333/1783

We have a particular concern about the Upper Devil's Creek-Skeleton Creek riparian habitat in analysis area three. Recommend dispersed recreation (no timber harvest) prescription, for newly released areas exhibiting very high erosion hazard with intermittent streams and/or riparian habitat.

No timber is scheduled to be harvested in the vicinity of the confluence of Devils Gulch - Skeleton Creeks.

We observe the absence of a specific constraint associated with FORPLAN grazing prescriptions. Our concern is not with grazing, but with the hoof-shear impact of use on fragile riparian habitat. Redoubled efforts, especially in the face of budget cuts, to find state-of-the-art protection for these areas is vital

See response to 333/1520 and 1777

333/1798

Riparian zones must be protected, and reclaimed if damaged. Logging and other land use practices should be planned so that meadows and water courses are protected to the fullest extent. OHV use should be restricted to areas where no riparian damage will occur. Forest users who violate laws governing protection of riparian zones should be fined severely.

Based on your input, riparian S&Gs were revised to reflect potential impact from OHV use. We agree, violators of laws governing protection of riparian zones should be dealt with effectively. See response to 333/1520.

333/1806

Standard and Guidelines 59 & 60 are in direct contradiction primary consideration of fish, wildlife, and water quality preclude use as range.

With the primal importance of riparian areas widely recognized, the lack of damage mitigation is appalling. Grazing and other such damaging "multiple uses" must be considered inappropriate in riparian areas. An expectation of future conditions very similar to present conditions is unacceptable in light of the existence of degraded areas.

S&G 59 of the Draft Plan defines guidelines for protecting riparian zones, #60 of the Draft Plan defines guidelines for multiple use of meadows. Riparian areas within the meadows will be managed giving primary consideration to riparian dependant resources Therefore, we do not feel that S&Gs 59 and 60 in the Draft Plan are in contradiction. Primary consideration does not preclude use by livestock, but does allow those acceptable activities such as grazing, and the various forms of outdoor recreation, as long as no conflicts are identified See response to 333/1777 for more information

333/1807

Streamside Management Zones should be designated for all perennial streams and for any intermittent streams used by fish or that have significant riparian vegetation (Class I, II, and III). On all such perennial stream and intermittent spawning/nursery or riparian vegetation lined streams, timber harvest should not be allowed to be close proximity to streambanks in order to prevent sedimentation of the stream substrate, or cause loss of riparian habitat and overstory shading.

Based on our SMZ guidelines described in Forest Service Manual 2521, Supplement #8, we currently designate SMZs for all Class I, II, III, and IV streams. Please see Plan Sec. 4.5 and FEIS Sec. 2.5.3.2 for our S&Gs relating to SMZs. See response to 333/1702 and 0307.

333/1817

Width of SMZ's should be maximized, and no soil disrupting activities should be allowed within them

See response to 333/1702 and 1807.

333/1843

CNPS supports a 100 foot band of vegetation being left along stream courses and tributary creeks. Harvest within this buffer zone is detrimental to riparian vegetation, streams, and wildlife in and around the streams.

The 100 foot SMZ will be managed to protect water quality and maintain riparian habitat. It does not preclude management activities which will not conflict with riparian habitat and water quality objectives. Please see our Riparian S&Gs in the FEIS Sec. 2.5 3.2 and in the Final Plan Sec. 4 5.2.6 that emphasize our commitment to riparian protection.

334-SENSITIVE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES

334/0092

How are you going to improve the lives of threatened and endangered species? Do you need to spend a lot of money? How much money will it take to establish a strong vegetative upward trend for perennial forage meadows? How will you accomplish this task? How will you manage the vegetation and soil?

S&G 32 of the Draft PPlan states that habitat improvement objectives will be emphasized for sensitive, threatened, and endangered species, then harvest species. Identified habitat deficiencies for these species will have a higher priority for improvement. For S&G 78 of the Draft Plan, it will not entail additional funds, but implementation of good management.

334/0464

Studies concluded that Crane Valley Project is not affecting Collomia rawsonia, but logging and small hydroelectric projects could impact the species.

The Forest has executed an interagency agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service and has approved a species management guide for Collomia rawsoniana. Logging and associated activities are restricted within the designated essential habitat for this species. Impacts of hydroelectric proposals are addressed in the Proponent's Project EIS.

334/1055

Two sensitive meadow species, Trifolium bolanderi and Ivesia unguiculata are both subject to grazing impact, and yet, no data is available in the Plan to protect them.

Proper livestock management and allowable use standards of grazing in meadows supporting these two sensitive plants should not adversely impact them. Any identified conflicts will be resolved in favor of sensitive plants. Species management guides will be developed for these species.

334/1055 & 1843

Sensitive plants should not be merely a list in a source book to set on a shelf and be forgotten. It is often left up to the conscience and level of stewardship of the person writing the harvest plan, and/or availability of a resource person with enough botanical knowledge to monitor the area.

The Forest sensitive plant coordinator or Forest botanist continually refers to the inventory data on hand to provide input to various management activity proposals, with recommendations for avoidance or mitigation of habitats containing sensitive plant species. At times, additional surveys are conducted to augment the known, recorded information. If anticipated funding increases occur, a professional ecologist/botanist will be hired to manage the sensitive plant program.

334/1520 & 1639

Sensitive plant habitats should be protected. DEIS lists 15 sensitive plant species, in addition to Carex Tomkinsii and Eryngium Spinosepalum. These should be added to the forest sensitive plant species list. We support current three-phase management. However, there isn't any reference to

current or proposed monitoring of rare plant populations. We reiterate that state and federally-listed species should be designated MIS.

Sensitive plant habitats are protected. The revised Regional Forester's sensitive plant list includes Carex thompkinsii. Sensitive plant monitoring will be done on a project-by-project basis. Eryngium spinosepalum is a vernal pool species that occurs in valley grasslands. This vernal pool habitat is not present in the Forest. Monitoring sensitive plant populations is an ongoing program and will be continued through the life of this Plan. Sensitive plants are not listed as MIS. Protective measures will be detailed in species management guides, as they are developed.

We suggest the following MIS be adopted in the Plan: 1) Sensitive plant species be managed in a manner to prevent their placement on federal threatened and endangered lists 2) Species management guides for sensitive plants will be developed which define activity constraints and provide monitoring.

These two requirements are currently being implemented and will continue under the proposed Plan.

334/1637

Sensitive plants, Carpenteria, for example, appear to thrive best in disturbed areas. There is no need to prohibit timber harvesting at the Kings Canyon Geologic Area to serve its purpose.

Timber harvests are precluded from the Kings Canyon Geologic Area in accord with the approved establishment report. Carpenteria californica, a Forest sensitive plant species, does not occur there.

334/1716

The DEIS states that Collomia rawsoniana is the only species with potential resource conflicts. This statement is confusing when viewed in context of the statement of pg. 6-3 of the Plan concerning the need to gather data about impacts to Trifolium bolanderi, and possibly other species, from livestock grazing. These potential ongoing impacts are inconsistent with Region 5 policy. Concerning the sensitive plant monitoring plan, we feel that monitoring five projects per year may be too low a number. At a bare minimum we feel state and federally-listed species should be listed as MIS.

The statement on pg 6-3 states that a research need may surface during plan monitoring and evaluation. The long-term grazing of meadows supporting Bolander's clover has not been considered an impact. However, the proposed research will help to ascertain if, in fact, an impact exists. Research data may also reveal that grazing is needed to maintain the species. At this time, no sensitive plant species will be listed as MIS.

We are pleased that the DEIS discusses the need to protect and manage sensitive plant species and their habitats. We suggest that an additional goal stating that sensitive species be managed, and action be taken to "recover" sensitive species to a condition warranting delisting as sensitive, threatened or endangered be added to the Plan

As our knowledge and data base increases through surveys and inventories, the Regional Forester's sensitive plant species list will undergo many changes. The Forest goal is to enhance sensitive plant populations, where possible. Specific management and conservation measures will be addressed in species management guides. Any recovery efforts will be limited to officially listed threatened and endangered plant species and in accord with federal recovery plans.

MMRs for sensitive plant species need to be established that read sensitive plant species shall be managed in such a manner that provides for the existence of viable populations and prevents any need for federal listing as threatened or endangered. The following should be added to the Minimum Implementation Requirements: sensitive plants shall be managed as if listed as threatened or endangered

MMRs are developed at the Regional level. Regional direction and policy mandates the conservation of all sensitive plant species and their essential habitat. Forest direction manages sensitive plants to ensure that species do not become threatened or endangered because of Forest Service actions.

CNPS requests the following for sensitive species: 1) Which species will have habitat protected, and what proportion of the known populations will be protected? 2) Which, if any, species could possibly be deleted as a result of forest management.

All sensitive plant habitats will be protected. As plant inventories are completed and our data base increases, the opportunity for removal of some of our current list of sensitive plants will occur. It is too premature to predict which plants could be deleted or added to the Regional Forester's plant list.

DEIS pg. 3-53 lists 15 sensitive plant species. Please evaluate and if appropriate, add Carex Tompkinsii and Eryngium Spinosepalum to the list of sensitive species in the final Plan.

Carex Tompkinsii is listed by the Regional Forester as sensitive and is therefore on the Forest's list. The addition of Eryngium spinosepalum is not warranted at this time. It occurs in the valley grasslands in vernal pool habitat. Vernal pool habitat does not occur in the Forest.

We recommend that all sensitive plant populations be managed by conducting the following activities: 1) Habitat will be provided all sensitive plant species found on the forest for their continued existence and declassification as sensitive, threatened or endangered (to recover the species); 2) Coordination of efforts to promote delisting of state listed species; 3) Conducting inventories of project sites and disturbed areas (if potential exists); 4) Forestwide inventory of sensitive plants before the next round of forest planning.

Habitat will be provided and protected for the following reasons: 1) Conserve our sensitive plant species throughout the life of the Plan. They will be managed to ensure there will be no need to list under the Endangered Species Act. 2) State-listed plants are an integral part of the Regional Forester's sensitive plant species list. The Forest will assist the state in their conservation efforts. 3) This is Regional policy and need not be stated in S&Gs. Specific monitoring will be addressed in species management guides. 4) This request is not appropriate at this time since we cannot guarantee the completion of this task, pending current funding. However, it is our intent to accomplish this before the next planning period begins. 5) Species Management Guides will be prepared, when possible, for each of the Forest's sensitive plant species as ecological and management information become available or is developed.

CNPS feels that the Forest should prepare species management guides to determine future management needs and current status of sensitive plants.

All National Forests in California are preparing species management guides as ecological and management information become available or is developed. We agree that these management guides are important tools for long-range conservation of our sensitive plant species and their essential habitats and will aid in keeping them off official lists as threatened or endangered species. Completion of species management guides will be prioritized.

The interim management of sensitive plants could be crucial to their long term viability, and avoidance of sensitive plants will be the only management tool. What other means of interim management will occur?

Until surveys and inventories are completed, we will use our current data base and field surveys to determine presence or absence of sensitive plants in Forest projects. We also will propose measures to avoid modification of plants and their habitat, as required by Regional direction.

DEIS pg. 3-52 states that there is a need to gather data on the impact of livestock grazing on Trifolium bolanderi and possibly other species. What other species might be impacted by grazing?

We find no mention of "possible other species", on pg. 3-52 of the DEIS. We assume you are referring to research needs on pg. 6-3 of the Plan. The other species could include Ivesia unguiculata.

Management of the Forest is not presently providing the protection that sensitive plants are mandated to receive. Adverse impacts and mitigation measures such as changes in grazing allotment plans and hydroelectric project approval should be included in Section 4.28 of the DEIS.

DEIS Sec 4 28 is not the appropriate section to list specific mitigation measures. This section describes parts of the DEIS and Plan where mitigation measures can be found. In addition, mitigation is included in site specific project proposals for changes in grazing allotment plans, proposed hydroelectric projects, or any other land-disturbing activity. Final approval for hydroelectric projects rest with FERC, not with the Forest.

The Plan does not specifically designate any plant species such as management indicator species. Species that are adversely impacted by forest management should be listed as MIS.

Sensitive plants were not listed as management indicator species, because direction and policy ensure that long-term survival of all rare, sensitive, threatened, and endangered species will be maintained. Our policy is to manage sensitive species in such a way that federal listing as threatened and endangered species is not necessary.

334/1843

Sensitive plants should not be merely a list in a source book to sit on a shelf and be forgotten. On occasion, they may be referred to, to see if sensitive species grow within a timber cut, but it is often up to the conscience and level of stewardship of the person writing the harvest plan, or availability of a resource person with enough knowledge to monitor the area.

See response to 334/1055.

336-OLD GROWTH

336/0755

I recommend no more cutting of old growth forests and trails.

Thank you for your comment. See response to 336/1533.

336/1528

I do not understand how old growth acreage of ponderosa pine stands will increase when the average rotation age will be reduced to 60 years. Assuming you can explain this, how widely will the old growth acreage be spread?

The majority of ponderosa pine timber stands are presently in a mature condition (over 90 years old). Timber harvesting in the next five decades will not appreciably impact this forest type and will permit the majority of stands to reach oldgrowth conditions (over 140 years). These stands will be distributed throughout the ponderosa pine type.

336/1533 & 1767

Heavily-forested old growth timber stands found in the Forest should not be viewed simply as a revenue-producing commodity. In their natural state they're a precious national resource which if damaged, would take hundreds of years to restore. It is true that the Forest contains a significant amount of wilderness, but a large portion of this wilderness is above the timberline, and does not contain the heavy old growth timber found in the areas to be managed for harvest under the Plan.

The character of the Forest would be changed if the Plan is adapted to replace large stands of old growth with even aged stands with less variety of species. The rotation ages recommended for all species are too short to maintain yields and visual qualities. Combination of short rotation, clearcut,

and decrease in variety of trees will result in drastic changes in the nature of the Forest. Old growth forest transformed into a tree farm. Loss will be permanent and irreparable

We agree that oldgrowth timber stands are important for many reasons. We recognize the importance of oldgrowth to aesthetics and wildlife. The Forest has developed a visual quality standard of retention along well-traveled highways and by setting aside more than 20,000 acres of older stands outside of wilderness for Spotted owls and Goshawks, dispersed recreation, no timber harvest and riparian

The Forest includes 528,000 acres of Wilderness within its boundary, of which 11,000 acres of oldgrowth occurs. The Wilderness is contiguous with Yosemite & Kings Canyon National Parks, which will provide habitat for species requiring large areas of undisturbed habitat.

336/1669 & 0298

The statement is made that Spotted owl management territories will maintain habitat not only for the owls, but for other species associated with old growth. This ignores species that need tracts of old growth that are contiguous and not prone to disturbance, such as the wolverine. Old growth pockets are better suitable to birds than mammals.

See response to 336/1533.

Old growth forests need to be more objectively defined. The only references to it in the text refer to timber types of 4c.

Refer to our definition of oldgrowth in the glossary (Appendix R)

Forest fragmentation plays a more important role for old growth forests than for other seral stages. We recommend that lands set aside for "old growth" be 1) at least 50 acres in size, and 2) shaped in roughly sperical blocks, not in a lineal or serpentine fashion. This would provide "core" areas of old growth

"Oldgrowth" stands will be set aside in contiguous blocks within 22 SOHAs outside of wilderness. In addition, approximately 11,000 acres of oldgrowth occurs in large contiguous blocks in the wilderness. There will also be opportunities to include visual quality zones and riparian areas in oldgrowth stands. Please refer to the FEIS Plan regarding the inclusion of Goshawk Management.

336/1682

NFMA prohibits old growth and general forest timbering unless the Forest Service can provide assurance that soil, slope, watershed, wildlife resources, as well as recreation and aesthetic values are protected and bodies of water are not subject to detrimental changes in temperature, sedimentation, and fish habitat

The resources which you have listed are considered in the FEIS. As individual projects are planned, impacts to all the resources will be assessed as required by the National Environmental Protection Act.

In view of the unanimous recognition by Sierra Nevada Forest of the declining habitat for imperiled wildlife species and the concomitant decline of recreation quality and the cumulative effect of this decline in violation of NFMA principles, the following actions need to be taken during a moratorium on further old growth sales: 1) DEIS under each resource heading should provide specific citations from NFMA and regulations. 2) An inventory of publicly available maps. 3) Specific site analysis of old growth as the dynamic diversification of biota intensifies with the age of the Forest.

The DEIS will not provide specific citations from laws, regulation and national and regional policy. Higher level direction is part of overall management direction and common to all alternatives. They will not be repeated in this document unless to emphasize a point.

Although oldgrowth stands will decline, we have identified several species which are at risk of being impacted by the various forestland management activities. A network for maintaining the viability of the Spotted owl has been developed and similar networks will be developed for Goshawks.

Specific site analysis is presently being conducted by the research branch of the Forest Service around Spotted owl nest sites.

Virgin, intermediate, and potential old growth classes should be preserved and restored to a high level of decadence. Give special recognition to old growth in an Old Growth Wilderness National Monument or similar designation.

Oldgrowth stands which you mention occur in the Wilderness and will remain undisturbed for people to enjoy

336/1767

Roadless areas and old growth timber stands are irreplaceable and you are legally required to protect them. Your Plan does not provide adequate protection.

See responses to 336/1669, 1682 for an explanation of the protection and management of oldgrowth, and 370/0210 for information on roadless areas.

340-VISUAL RESOURCES

340/0060

Shouldn't there be a goal for Visual Resources stating that the VQOs will be met or better shown on the map?

There is no alternative which considers visuals as a single resource. All alternatives were put together during the ID team process and were developed around alternative themes. Alternative themes were developed from public issues and concerns identified during initial public contact periods. Visual quality was never identified as a resource from which an alternative was developed.

340/0091

I really liked S&G 24, because I think that keeping the Forest looking nice is very important.

Thank you for your support. The intent is to enhance or maintain old growth, the natural characteristics of trees, and keep other facilities subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

340/0297

I disagree with S&G 25c because animals need shelter, and it is not fair to the soil because it needs nutrients

Thank you for your excellent observation. Down logs in retention areas will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Where more than three are existing the new cull logs will be disposed of. Where there is a shortage of down logs, they will be scattered over the area, hidden from view.

340/0356

Reduce your visual quality retention guidelines throughout the suitable timber management forest and stress this concern in wilderness areas and those adjacent to developed recreation areas only.

The Plan parallels your recommendations. The visual quality objective for the wilderness is preservation and the foreground views in the developed recreation areas are retention. The only other areas with retention visual quality objective are foreground views from Hwy. 168, 41, 4S81 to Mammoth Pool, and McKinley Grove Road

340/0897

As far as visual values, the adjacent national parks and wilderness areas provide all the beauty and aesthetic value one could possibly want from forest areas

National Park and Forest wilderness does provide beauty for the present and future generations of visitors.

340/1002

The use of mechanical measures of visual "quality" is of questionable value.

We disagree. Even though the visuals are subjective, they give us a consistent formula for measuring throughout California and the United States.

The VC classes shown in Figure 4 02, especially where the natural character dominates, are only meaningful in comparison to other VCs for the same area. For example, VCs of "minor disturbance" and "unnoticed" can have the same effect for the forest visitor as a VC of "untouched," unless the visitor watches the change actually take place

You are correct in your assumption. The viewing public will not be able to see the difference between "untouched, unnoticed, or minor disturbance," unless they see the change occur. From the observer's viewpoint, no management activities will occur in untouched areas. Some activities will occur in areas identified as "unnoticed" and "minor disturbance" areas.

340/1065

Just preserving a forest to merely look at, is not being a good steward of our resources

The Forest Service agrees with your concern. Foreground and middleground views from sensitive areas will be managed to meet different resource objectives.

340/1222

There seems to be a contradiction between the expressed plan and the VQO map concerning dispersed recreation areas. Parts of the "no logging" dispersed recreation zones are mapped to have VQOs of partial retention and modification. What management impacts would degrade these areas?

Thank you for pointing out the contradiction between the Plan and the VQO map. The Element Map will be corrected before final printing

340/1253

I would favor logging in the Shaver Lake viewshed area, so long as it is done in a conscientious manner and with replanting.

Thank you for your support of harvesting timber in the Shaver Lake viewshed. At the project level all resources will be considered and regeneration will be accomplished by planting

340/1282

The bureaucratic approach to aesthetics falls short of a sensitive appreciation of the natural environment. Natural integrity should be the only criteria for aesthetics. Attempting to rate or rank different types of ecosystems accordingly results in an unacceptable decline in visual quality.

It is difficult to take a resource like visuals where beauty is in the eye of the beholder and put it into a system with numbers. NEPA and NFMA require all resources be inventoried and a system developed to evaluate those inventories. In this sense, visuals have been identified as a resource to be managed

340/1301

Our proposed building site is isolated from the balance of the Analysis Area by Chinese Peak and will not be visually obtrusive or create additional overnight crowding

This proposed project has been withdrawn

340/1418

There should be management for retention of visual quality.

The visual quality objective of retention occurs in foreground views from major highways and developed recreation use areas.

340/1533

The most significant threat to visual resources is timber management. Once destroyed by timber harvest, use of clearcutting and even-aged management techniques, these visual amenities cannot be restored for many generations. If the greatest degradation of visual quality is to occur in dispersed areas, the user to whom visual quality means the most will be the most exposed to decreases in visual quality.

If you are referring to general forest areas of the Forest, you are correct. The most overall change to the characteristic landscape will occur in those areas.

340/1637

Distance views are becoming increasingly obscure because of dog hair thickets of conifers, thus subjecting the traveler to a situation where he cannot enjoy the forest for the trees. We would not like visual management used to the extent that it would preclude the roadside viewing of good logging practices or other beneficial resource use, be it hydroelectric, range, water or other.

The Forest's intent in foreground views is not to grow "dog hair thickets of conifers" or hide Forest management activities. Our goal in viewsheds is to grow and maintain old growth characteristics.

340/1681

S&Gs in sec. 4.5.2.2 should be strictly enforced, helping to create roads that are subordinate to a landscape.

The project level will be the time and place where visual resource standards are worked out.

340/1702

The emphasis on visual quality and amenity values along Forest roads and highways could be slightly reduced.

The Preferred Alternative was developed around the theme which included foreground views from all major highways. To reduce visuals in this alternative would not be consistent with the theme of the alternative.

340/1858

The economic evaluation of spotted owls and visual resources and their cost to the American people are much underestimated and hidden in the Plan.

We share your concern for the cost of visuals and spotted owls. Appendix B was created to identify tradeoffs for nonmarket resources such as visuals and spotted owls. An explanation on how each of these was analyzed is found in Appendix B, Sec. 2.5.2 (outputs tracked outside of FORPLAN).

341-VISUAL QUALITY OBJECTIVES

341/0060

I found nothing in regard to scenic quality even though it was an issue and the consequences are significant. There is going to be a tremendous amount of scenic quality sacrificed in most of the alternatives to meet the commodity outputs that were targeted. DEIS pp. 2-136 and 2-139 indicate that there will be reductions of 27 to 40% in Existing Visual Condition. That is very significant.

Most of the reduction in visual conditions will occur in middleground and background views from Level 2 roads and background views from Level 1 roads. The foreground views will remain virtually the same as viewed today.

341/0286

VQO modification will allow clearcuts up to 40 acres each and conversion of the mixed conifer to uninteresting even age conifer plantations. It is not acceptable in the wild and beautiful South Fork Merced Canyon.

We agree with your comment. The South Fork Merced Canyon is now dispersed recreation with no timber harvesting allowed.

341/0387

I am unable to endorse your Plan for the following reason: Visual quality restrictions for Type II are too tight. It prevents the general public from seeing what other silvicultural techniques like shelterwood harvesting can do to maintain and enhance a forest, that might otherwise stagnate.

The preferred alternative was developed around the theme which included foreground views from all major highways. To reduce visuals in this alternative would not be consistent with the theme of the alternative.

341/0652

Wildlife surely can adapt to the change, with respect to Visual Quality, due to the fact that the forest will not be made into barren deserts.

The Forest Service tries to manage its lands for multiple use without the exclusion of any one resource

341/1002

Appendix pg. 7-241 states that primitive landscape appears totally "natural." From where? As foreground scenes or to an observer from within.

When the phrase "totally natural" is used in the definition of primitive visual condition, it can be viewed from any distance zone. The intent usually means that no timber harvesting is allowed.

341/1213

Nelder Grove is shown as partial retention and modification. I think the goal should be for partial retention only.

The Preferred Alternative was developed around the theme which included foreground views from all major highways. To reduce visuals in this alternative would not be consistent with the theme of the alternative

341/1222

I was shocked when I read that 0% of timber stands in partial retention VQO areas will be in the over 30 inch size. Big trees are an essential element of the natural character. I also object to the Plan's allowance for clearcuts of up to 20 acres in partial retention zones. Big trees are a major Sierra amenity value, to be identified and preserved.

Most partial retention is located in middleground views. When looking at a view from a distance of one to three miles, the size of a tree is lost. Canopy is the important component with respect to distance, a 21-30 inch tree appears the same as an over 30 inch tree.

341/1468

Timber volumes can be increased by making limited entries into visually sensitive areas and special management areas.

Timber harvesting will occur in retention and partial retention areas. Specific volume targets for these areas have been developed in all alternatives through an interdisciplinary team process.

341/1703

I agree that careful timber management is necessary in high use recreational areas. I feel that timber management could be practiced more vigorously adjacent to the Mammoth Pool and McKinley Grove Roads. The high visual quality should be maintained on State Highways 168 and 41. However, this does not mean that selective timber management cannot be practiced adjacent to these highways.

We do have a regulated timber harvest target in these areas. See response to 341/0387.

341/1819

Visual management is overemphasized by the Forest. Fewer acres should be allocated to visual management, especially in areas with forest stands less than 120 years old. The Forest should manage visually sensitive stands of this age to maintain the existing structure of the forest rather than changing the structure to that of a 300-year-old stand. This is a reasonable alternative that should be considered in the EIS.

We disagree with your point of view. Of 1.4 million acres in the Forest, there is only a small portion that is managed for visual quality. Approximately 26,000 acres is managed as retention, 81,000 as partial retention and approximately 191,000 acres managed as background and beyond. Retention areas emphasize 250-year-old stands, Partial Retention emphasizes 120-year-old stands, while background emphasizes 80-year-old stands.

341/1862

Type III in the foreground is inappropriate because the average use on weekends for Redinger Lake in summer is well over 125 PAOTS. It's closer to between 50-100 PAOT. It should be given Type II retention as given for Mammoth Pool and Dinkey Creek.

The number of users and the natural characteristics such as land form, water, and vegetation do not warrant an increase in visual quality objectives at this time. Future demand may cause the Forest Service to reanalyze our current position.

350-WATER

350/0178

What will you do if the water in the streams exceeds 70 degrees Fahrenheit?

If in the course of stream monitoring, temperatures exceed 70 degrees F, the occurrence will be noted and documented. A specific investigation will be triggered to determine the cause or if it is merely a natural occurrence for that time of the year. If it's not a natural occurrence, specific mitigation measures will be prescribed to increase shade or whatever else is needed.

350/0216

I would like to know the net effect of timber harvesting on impacting the watershed. This would be critical for water management and its results on water conservation. California reservoirs are dependent on this effect.

When timber is removed from the watershed, water yield is increased, depending on the amount removed, rainfall and soil depth. This is explained in the DEIS (Ch.4, Sec 4.16).

350/0812

The proper management and conservation of these lands is vitally important to improving our watershed that ultimately supplies the ground water and surface water required for the agricultural economy, which is the primary source of revenue for our local economy. Other benefits are the hydroelectric power generated, the timber harvested/processed by local mills, and last, but certainly not least, the recreation/intrinsic value of preserving the natural beauty of our mountains.

Thank you for your comment. These considerations are discussed in the Plan.

350/1002

Your discussions of water yields leave a reviewer confused as to the actual effects of various management practices DEIS pg.4-8 says that water yield increases are associated with timber harvesting but is not specific about quantities. Appendix 7-25 says if vegetation is not maintained but "allowed to grow back and treated every 5 years, average yield was 0.6 ac-ft/ac/decade " We assume that means average yield increases. It's not clear what the 0.6 ac-ft. result from.

Your comment deals with two different types of vegetation. Water yield varies considerably with the amount of timber removed. The more timber removed, the greater the water yield will be. The water yield will be increased until the vegetation that was modified grows back In the case of a coniferous forest, the period is 50 years.

Water yield resulting from brush conversion to grass is about 0.6 ac-ft./acre/decade. This increase diminishes in about five years.

In reading the Narrative for Table 2.34 DEIS pg.2-169, we find some apparent differences in the figures listed in the Table and those found in the text.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. This will be corrected

The discussion of the water benchmark correctly identifies the relationship between timber management and water yield. If an activity is conducted, "... in order to maximize water yield," then the cost of that activity should be a water management cost. The primary benefit is the value of the increased water yield, and timber takes its place as one of the secondary beneficiaries.

The water benchmark was not calculated using water management costs. Although the primary benefit is water, timber harvest activities were used to generate the water yield. Ideally, to maximize the water yield, all timber would be removed and a grass cover, for soil protection, would be established. This is not reasonable or acceptable to other resources.

DEIS pg.2-13 reports, for the water benchmark, a 5 decade average yield of 2.713 MM ac-ft./year, or 387,000 more than MMR. Review of Table 2.01 reveals 2.723 and 38,000 respectively for those two figures. Since the difference is significant, the correct figure should be identified

Pg.2-13 of the DEIS should read 2.738 with an increase of 80,000 ac-ft. more than the MMR. This will be corrected.

350/1533

The use of end-user water values, rather than point-of-use extraction seriously biases the economic analysis toward runoff increasing activities.

The Forest used a conservative value for the value of water, therefore, the \$59 per acre foot is reasonable, perhaps low instead of high. The \$59 does not take into account the value of hydroelectric power for domestic use, which would add significantly to the value of the water produced on the Forest. There is no additional cost for transporting the water since it flows downhill and is stored in existing reservoirs

350/1684

Water quality in the Forest has been enhanced by acts of Congress, not forest supervisors. If you folks had any real concern for soils and water quality, it would be reflected in your timber sale planning and enforcement. None of the alternatives address the problem adequately.

Specific direction for the protection and enhancement of water quality and soil productivity is listed under S&G sec 4.5.2.10 of the Plan. Also, BMPs specific practices designed to protect water quality are used. More specific direction or mitigation measures will appear at the project level, and at the Forest planning level

350/1687

The water management plan seems to need revision. If the reports I have read are correct, we are being forced to pay for the destruction of that which belongs to us.

A specific water plan is beyond the scope of this document. During the implementation phase, project specific direction will be developed based on the preferred alternative

350/1858

Reduced harvest as the Preferred Alternative is yielding far below the water production potential of this Forest. Water quality will not be degraded in any way with the maintenance of yield in timber in excess of 150 MMBF annually. Water is the number one product of this Forest and should be given considerably more weight than the management of such amenities as Spotted Owls or visual resources

Thank you for your comment National policies and laws require National Forests to be managed for multiple uses, including recreation, and protection of natural ecosystems.

351-WATER PRODUCTION

351/0464

S&G 105, should be strengthened to emphasize water yield increases and snow pack management to improve timing of flows as objectives for initiating watershed improvement projects. These projects should be carried out where water values would be enhanced not just in conjunction with vegetation conversion projects that enhance resources, as this guideline now states.

Thank you for pointing this out to us, we will modify this S&G.

PG&E recommends Alternative A be modified to better reflect need for and opportunities to actively manage forest watersheds Opportunities to increase water yield and delay snow melt runoff would greatly benefit water users and the public. Certain elements of Alternatives F, H, I could accomplish those objectives and should be incorporated in a modified Alternative A.

The amount of increased water yield is primarily dependent upon the amount of acres clearcut. Alternatives F, H, & I all have a 4% increase in water yield. Alternative A has only a 2.2% increase due to the timber harvest acres. S&G #105 of the Draft Plan has been modified to include more emphasis on water yield management.

We are pleased that the Forest is planning water yield increases from timber harvest and vegetation conversion. We believe the Plan should be aggressive in pursuing opportunities for water yield increases Management of forest flow regimes is a priority consideration to PG&E. We support aggressive timber stand improvement with water yield increases being one of the goals of the program Contrary to implication of the Plan, it's not necessary to clear cut vast areas to produce benefits from increased water yield nor is it necessary to give up yields.

Vast areas do not need to be cut to realize some water yield increases. Each of the alternatives, depending on the amount of clearcut harvesting proposed, do increase water yields to varying degrees.

351/0818

We believe that unanswered questions about efficiency of techniques designed to increase water yield provide ample reason to avoid them. Should vegetation management for the purpose of increasing water yield result in requirements for additional storage facilities to prevent flooding of inhabited agricultural lands, who pays for the development, timber/power producers. A 2.2% increase in water yield for the Forest could be quite significant for certain streams.

Although the water yield effects of vegetative manipulation vary considerably, it is well documented that certain methods will work. These would be the methods used in the Forest. All of these methods are controlled by very specific BMPs to protect water quality. The 2.2% increase in water

yield, as stated in the Plan, will not occur in any one specific drainage due to the dispersed nature of timber harvesting.

351/1383

The conversion of brush fields should be rethought. The claim of increased water yield from such operations is not well founded. Any increase in water yield from brush reduction would only be within the range of inaccuracy of flow measurement and probably could not be noticed. Any initial yields would rapidly decrease as vegetation grew back. The small amount of yield would carry a disproportionate mineral load that could affect the quality of the whole river

The main reason for conversion of brush to grass is for fuel reduction and wildlife habitat improvement. Unless the conversion is maintained, the water yield increase is lost after five years. Chaparral is maintained naturally by fire. Our burning only reseeds and regenerates many of the species.

351/1546

Timber harvest may increase water supply in the short run but later reduces ground water. It is in the future that we will need more water. Not now

Timber harvest increases shallow ground water by eliminating transpiration from trees. As the trees grow back, the yield increase lessens with time. Deep ground water, for which you are concerned, is not affected.

351/1668

In an effort to increase water runoff, the Forest Service recommends the management of almost 6,000 acres for timber harvest. This would not be economically feasible when the costs of transporting the water to the user and storing it are factored into the equation. Timber harvest results in soil erosion, increased silting, and wildlife damage downstream.

The Forest Service does not advocate harvesting 6,000 acres to increase water runoff. The increased yield is an additional benefit of timber harvest. There is no additional cost for transporting the water since it flows downhill and is stored in existing reservoirs. During its trip, fish habitat is created and maintained and hydroelectric power is often generated.

351/1737

I don't feel there should be a great emphasis on "water producing" activities in the Forest. You don't need management goals for increasing water yield. To do this is to compromise the quality of the water

There are no specific goals to produce water. The goals are to cut timber. The increased water is an additional benefit.

352-HISTORICAL WATER RIGHTS

352/0089

I think the guidelines should be the same as those of the State Water Resources Control Board which are supposed to protect water rights and the public interest concerning water. Why make more rules?

The State Water Resource Control Board does not say how to protect and maintain water quality. They only state that it should be done. In compliance, the Forest has specific rules, S&Gs, and BMPs to insure high water quality

352/1158

Chapter 4 of the Plan, Management Direction, fails to identify or list in priority those public land laws whereby the Congress has determined the use and disposition of the land and water resources of the public domain and their interrelationships with the current management of the public withdrawn lands. That hoot-owls and scenic values demand major consideration over the basic

purpose of national forest withdrawals, that of timber production and watershed protection to provide a domestic water supply.

You are correct that the National Forests were set aside for timber production and watershed protection and to provide a domestic water supply. However, over the past eight years or so, legislation has been passed broadening the scope of the role of the National Forests. See Section 1.1 of the DEIS for a description of some of these laws and regulations.

353-WATER QUALITY/BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

353/1158

I oppose the National Timber Supply Act of 1969. Legislators proposed the intensive use of chemicals for stimulated growth and forest protection. Now in this Plan comes the same approach, which the Congress so decisively rejected in 1969. This is unacceptable.

Currently there is very restricted use of herbicides within the Region. Use is limited to selected progeny and provenance test sites. Until the Regional Final Vegetation Management EIS is approved, this very restricted use will continue.

353/1418

Water quality is of the utmost importance, and all activities and uses should minimize effects on water quality.

We concur that it is very important. We use Best Management Practices to protect the quality of water and monitor practices to insure their use and effectiveness.

353/1533

The Plan does not adequately delineate specific plans for protection of water quality during the planning horizon. More emphasis is placed on increasing water production through timber harvest and chaparral conversion. The Plan should include specific management goals and methods for insuring future water quality within the rivers flowing out of the Forest. Included should be specific budget shortfalls, sufficient to guarantee that water quality will be maintained.

See response to 353/1682

353/1682

Reliance on BMP guidelines to maintain and enhance soil productivity and to prevent and reduce sedimentation from nonpoint sources is not legally sufficient. Federal court decisions have established that the Forest Service cannot assume that adherence to BMPs assures compliance with water quality standards. Failing to prove mitigations had been successful in the past, the Forest Service was obliged to conduct a worse case analysis of sedimentation impacts.

The Forest Service is mandated by PL 92-500 to maintain and improve water quality where needed. Through a cooperative agreement with the State Department of Water Resources, BMPs were listed that specified how water quality was protected on the National Forest. As long as these practices are implemented during our projects, the State and EPA agree that we are "reasonably" maintaining water quality. Where known water quality problems exist, Table 4.03 in the Plan shows the acres being treated by decade, to eliminate or mitigate the problem. Specific directions for these projects are not included here due to their specificity. They are in the project plan that is used on the ground during implementation.

We requested information on soil and water from our comments on the Tahoe National Forest FMP-DEIS. In these comments are references to Plumas National Forest FMP-DEIS list of necessary Sierrawide studies. We request Sierra National Forest comments on each of the listed Items 17-55. Information is needed on 17 (specific BMPs to be applied) and 18 (program for

monitoring BMPs). Specific monitoring guidelines, methods, schedules, costs anticipated, and budget priority, all need to be addressed.

17. All BMPs are listed in Appendix E of the Plan. Specific BMPs are listed at the project level.

18 The Forest has a Watershed Monitoring Plan that gives direction to monitoring S&Gs, BMPs and specific project mitigation. Direction specifies that, if required, detailed monitoring will be required at the project level.

21 Identifying BMPs that need improvement and how to improve them will result from the monitoring of the BMPs over the next few years. This information is beyond the scope of this Plan.

27. The Forest agrees there is a need for research on sediment and turbidity values. It should be recognized that research in this area is best undertaken by other entities such as Forest research stations, universities, the U.S. Geological Survey, and State Water Resources Control Board.

28 Water quality objectives currently exist for sediment and turbidity in Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plans. The Forest believes that research is needed to refine these values. If BMPs are not properly implemented, timber cutting, and other practices could result in the Forest being required to obtain a state nonpoint discharge permit.

29. The degree of water quality degradation from individual and cumulative forest practices is very difficult to predict even at the project level. Many assumptions must be made, for instance regarding implementation of BMPs. We do know that the "potential" of water quality degradation is directly proportional to the amount and intensity of land management activities.

33 It is desirable to have a sediment model for the Forest, but is beyond the scope of this Plan. It is an area that needs to be addressed by research institutions. It should be noted that soil resource inventories have recently been completed for most of the Sierra Range and this is a valuable step in the process to develop sediment models.

43. The Watershed Improvement Need Inventory (WINI) is a dynamic inventory. As new problems are found, they are added to the list. As problems are solved, they are removed from further analysis.

45. Water Use Inventories are current and continually updated on Forest.

46. Due to very limited resources it was virtually impossible to acquire meaningful baseline water quality data for the DEIS for an area the size of the Forest (gross area of 1.4 million acres, 1,800 miles of perennial stream, and 480 inventoried lakes) Time alone did not allow for the gathering of pertinent data. There is, however, a certain amount of existing water quality information that the Forest used as background data. Limited data has been collected from Huntington Lake, Bass Lake, Shaver Lake and Wishon Reservoir. The El Portal Sewage Treatment Plant (NPS) collects data on the Merced River. There are 7 USGS gaging stations in the Forest that collect water quality data. There are also some water quality data that was collected by the Forest Hydrologist for the major watersheds in the Forest by a particular project. It should be noted that Chapter V of the Plan identifies monitoring needs relative to BMPs. This would entail the gathering of a certain amount of baseline information.

47. Various mineral studies conducted on the Forest indicate there is very little chance of any open pit mining

48. The majority of the high priority streams on the Sierra are involved with hydroelectric power. As the various projects come up for relicensing, the streams involved are routinely inventoried for instream flow needs. New projects are required to inventory all involved streams as part of the licensing procedure. As future projects are proposed that may influence instream flows, potentially impacted streams will be inventoried.

353/1817

Water quality should be maximized. Quantity is generally irrelevant as increases in quantity due to management activities come at a time of year when they are not available for use, and may in fact be detrimental (flooding). Increasing quantity is just another invalid excuse put forth to justify uneconomic timber sales. I would like to see the section on water quality include a write up on Giardia. How is this bug being dealt with?

Water yield increases due to management activities such as clearcutting, usually results in an addition to the shallow ground water aquifer that feeds streams over an extended period of time. This results in the additional water being delayed and being used instead of running off. Even this runoff, when it gets to the valley, can infiltrate into the soil and help recharge the local ground water.

Giardia was not discussed since it already exists on the Sierra and no specific alternative would appreciably effect its distribution. The Giardia Cyst can be carried by all warm blooded animals including humans and dogs. The risk of catching and/or spreading the disease is the same under all alternatives.

354-WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

354/0087

S&G 102 is very important. We need to improve water quality and protect soil productivity.

Thank you for your your comment.

354/0435

The Forest Service does not have the personnel to enforce the rules regarding cleanup, replanting and stream damage when trees are felled to close to the streams and then, many times are dragged through the streams. The result is a stream which silts up and can no longer support a fish population.

BMPs and S&Gs will protect streams during management activities. With these guidelines and practices, the cleanup and protection of stream courses will be made easier to accomplish with fewer people.

354/1055

Watershed improvement has not been mentioned as a benefit of chaparral conversion.

If the chaparral conversion results in a stabilization of deteriorated watershed, then it is a benefit. Most of the areas slated for conversion are not in a deteriorated condition.

354/1806

There must be more sample analysis, especially in relation to activities anticipated to cause impacts such as even-aged silviculture, roads, mining, and grazing. This can raise the precision/validity to high, as it should be. Any lack of implementing water quality mitigation measures or water quality objectives should be remedied without waiting for two further violations.

For specific monitoring projects, samples and detailed analysis may be needed. This will depend on the project and financing available. Violations of not using or not knowing about a certain BMP on the first review will be remedied immediately. The wording in the monitoring plan needs clarification. Monitoring is scheduled to continue for a minimum of five years, and longer if necessary. Any time, during or after the monitoring period, the desired results are not met, corrections will be made.

354/1809

The Forest needs to specify a thorough plan to monitor the water quality of all streams in the Forest, especially in areas of timber harvesting and new road construction.

The Forest has a plan for monitoring water quality by checking the effectiveness and implementation of BMP. Baseline monitoring has been done in the past, but will be restricted to specific project areas where water quality is of concern.

355-ACID RAIN

355/1682

The stress from timber practices coupled with severe impacts of acid deposition can seriously impair the Forest. Even-aged prescriptions, followup burning, and herbicide applications reduce soil fertility. Soil bacteria and forest regenerative capabilities are additionally stressed by acid deposition. Seedlings are more susceptible to air pollution than old growth.

The Environmental Protection Agency conducted an acid rain study in the western state lakes and found no detrimental effects. To date, acid deposition has not been identified as being a problem for seedling survival or tree growth in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Even age prescriptions do not necessarily reduce soil fertility. Small clearcuts, minimal soil disturbance, and cleanup of logging slash will protect the soil's physical properties, keep nutrients on the site and protect the microclimate. Experience indicates that more damage can occur with multiple entries due to the continual impact on the site and not allowing it to heal. Single entries that leave the majority of slash on the site may be less harmful than multiple entries that do not allow the site to recover completely before the next entry. Also, multiple entries can cause serious compaction.

Hot burns can reduce long term productivity by removing organic matter, nutrients, and organisms from the site. Burning when conditions produce a cool burn results in a minimum of productivity loss.

Herbicide application is an alternative to tractor piling and burning for site preparation and/or plantation release. When compared to these other alternatives, there is minimal reduction to productivity loss since vegetative litter is kept on-site for soil protection and replenishment of soil organic matter and nutrients. Currently, there is a moratorium on the use of herbicides except for certain exempt uses such as progeny and provenance test sites.

360-WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

360/0005

I appreciate your recommendation of W/S protection for the main stem and South Fork Merced, North Fork, Middle Fork, and Main San Joaquin River, and the Middle Fork Kings. I am especially concerned about the threat of hydroelectric projects on the wild and free-flowing stretches of these great rivers.

Thank you for your support. In November 1987, both the Merced and Kings Rivers were designated by Congressional Act as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

360/0013

I recommend a stricter policy for forest management so that those few remaining wild rivers are protected under any and all circumstances. I feel that the Forest Plan Alternative D provides a more protective policy than Alternative A.

Alternative A recommends 222 miles be included in the Wild and Scenic System. Alternative D recommends 163 miles. If your objective is to protect the rivers, then we assume your preference would be the stricter recommendation which is Alternative A. See response to 360/0005.

360/0218

I hope you will give wild and scenic status for portions of San Joaquin River.

Portions of the main San Joaquin River, North Fork San Joaquin River, Middle Fork San Joaquin River, and portions of the South Fork San Joaquin River will be recommended for designation in the W/S river system in the preferred alternative.

360/0307

The Forest Plan has excellent wild and scenic river recommendations. I support protection for North Fork San Joaquin River, South Fork Merced River and the entire main Merced.

Thank you for your support concerning the Forest's W/S river recommendations. See response to 361/0219.

360/0349

I am opposed to the Forest Service Plan to make 73 out of 75 miles of river in the Forest "wild and scenic." I think that the Forest Service needs to give more consideration to what the tax paying citizens in general think about the forest and not jump every time the Sierra says frog.

We are sorry you are opposed to the recommendations. However, there was overwhelming public support for the Preferred Alternative's position on W/S Rivers. See response to 360/0005.

360/0453

The Plan, concerning WSR called for inclusion of 73 miles in the Forest as part of expected 225 miles does not seem desirable. Currently, there is such distrust of atomic energy plants it does not seem likely they will be viable alternatives for production of electrical energy in the future. Since oil and coal fired steam plants produce undesirable by-products, that leaves one currently viable source of electrical energy, hydro projects.

The Forest at present has more major hydroelectric projects than any other National Forest in California. The recommendations would give the Forest a good balance of scenic rivers, while retaining existing hydroelectric resources. See response to 360/0349.

360/0590

I support the W/S classification of South Fork Merced and North, Middle and Main Forks San Joaquin River. The section of Merced between Briceburg and Lake McClure is especially deserving of protection.

See response to 361/1533 and 361/0219.

360/0691

Future water needs of Mariposa County would be locked up with the proposed WSR plan. We recommend no WSR designation.

The Preferred Alternative will show the Merced as a Wild and Scenic River for approximately 71 miles from the headwaters within Yosemite National Park to a point 300 feet upstream of the confluence with Bear Creek on BLM lands. This will be in accordance with the 1987 Congressional Act. We understand the county's water needs below this point. The original Merced River recommendation was for a total of 82 miles.

360/0778

I support the recommendation for W/S designations for South Fork, Middle Fork, and North Fork, upper San Joaquin, Middle Fork Kings, and South Fork and main Merced Rivers, and opposition to power plant projects there.

Thank you for your support.

360/0808

I would like to see W/S studies for all appropriate segments of South, Middle and North Forks San Joaquin and upper San Joaquin, Middle Fork Kings and South Fork Merced.

Studies for these rivers have been completed and will be shown in the Preferred Alternative After Congressional designation, site specific environmental analysis and documentation, apart from this Forest Plan, will also be completed. See response to 360/0005.

360/0849

My sincerest applause for your support of the W/S recommendations I am a director of the Peregrine Fund which for the last 10+ years has released captive bred peregrine falcons into the wilderness. Incidentally, the Upper King River Canyon is an important part of this habitat.

The peregrine falcon and other wildlife species will have guaranteed preservation of communities under the W/S designations. The Kings River area has been established under a Congressional Act of 1987 as a Special Management Area, which should give wildlife species added protection

360/0851

We applaud your position on banning water and power dams on the wild and scenic rivers within your jurisdiction More can and should be done

If the rivers are designated by Congress as Wild/Scenic, then development of hydroelectric power facilities will not be permitted The Merced and King Rivers have already been designated See response to 360/0005.

360/0989

I agree with your recommendation to designate various river segments on the Forest for inclusion in the WSR system There are many miles which I feel would be suitable for inclusion in this system, but I believe the Preferred Alternative strikes a reasonable balance.

The Forest analyzed 227 miles identified in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory of January, 1982 as potentially suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System The Preferred Alternative will recommend 222 of these miles be included in the W/S System. In November 1987, Congress designated the Merced and Kings as W/S Rivers.

360/0991

I would like to see all these rivers protected, not just segments

All the rivers that are recommended by this LMP will be protected by Congressional acts if designated. The classification of the segments of wild, scenic, or recreational will be done by the administration agency. The estimated effects of these classifications differ with each segment See response to 360/0005

360/1069

I would like to encourage you to do what you can to preserve San Joaquin, Merced and South Fork Merced Rivers

We have recommended preserving these rivers through this LMP process by suggesting designations for 222 miles of potential W/S rivers. See response to 360/0989.

360/1158

I am unable to respond adequately because the information presented does not include water power or irrigation reservations, mineral claims, water right diversions or vested and perfected water rights which must be purchased, or the location and value of private property. The main concern is that these river segments will be managed as WSR upon the approval of the Plan.

The rivers will be managed as WSR when designated by Congress. Land ownership and use with quantity of mineral claims, value of private property and water rights are shown in the FEIS. See response to 360/0005.

The Regional Forester, in a presumptuous and contemptuous manner, declares that the Merced, San Joaquin and Kings River segments shall be WSR now. To hell with the authority of the Congress, the President, the Secretary of Agriculture. Forest Dictator Zane Smith has spoken, so it shall be. Whenever this type of tyranny raises its ugly head it should be struck down in order to preserve the freedoms of our constitutional democracy. I conclude this action is willful and unlawful.

The Forest recommends wild and scenic rivers through this LMP. The Congress designates the rivers according to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. The Secretary of Agriculture administers the rivers that are within the department's boundaries. This is the established constitutional system.

360/1160

I support rivers for W/S status. Let us find other clean sources of power generation, rather than hydro-projects

See response to 360/0851

360/1195

Thank you for your W/S recommendation, especially those prohibiting more dams. Please set aside some of the unmatched and irreplaceable Sierras into a roadless wilderness.

See response to 375/0989, especially the paragraph concerning the roadless wilderness issues.

360/1223

I can appreciate the interests of the timber, mining, livestock, and water developers, yet we must not sacrifice forever a God-given treasure for a short term commercial gain. On behalf of posterity, the Forest WSR recommendations are applauded

Thank you for supporting the W/S recommendations. The Preferred Alternative is recommending approximately 71,000 acres be included with the 222 miles of rivers. The Forest will administer about 24,000 acres adjacent to approximately 75 miles of river on Forest lands. Other agencies will administer the remaining 47,000 acres

360/1230

I support W/S recommendations and hope you will include the Upper Kings River Canyon as wilderness. I would give up a lot of my electrical conveniences and be more restrictive in my water use to have one less dam and keep the rivers wild.

Thank you for your support. The Middle Fork, South Fork, and portions of the main Kings River have been designated by a 1987 Act of Congress as a Wild and Scenic River. Also, by an Act of Congress, the Kings River Canyon area has been designated a Special Management Area. The disposition of this area, referred to in the DEIS, has been resolved and will be managed similar to a primitive/wilderness area

360/1418

I agree with the Forest Plan's designation of 1/4 mile corridors on either side of a WSR. This is probably the strongest, most desirable aspect of the Preferred Alternative.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that an average of not more than 320 acres of land per mile will be managed. This means there are about 320 acres per mile and the Forest has approximately 24,000 acres along 75 miles of river that will have to be managed under WSR criteria.

360/1484

There should be a reduction in the number of miles recommended for W/S classification.

A reduction in the number of miles recommended for W/S classification was considered in Alternatives B, C, D, and H. The Preferred Alternative will recommend 222 miles be included in the W/S river system.

360/1520

We commend studies to determine whether rivers are eligible for inclusion into WSR System. We support the recommendations for designation of segments of the Kings, Merced, and San Joaquin Rivers for WSR status. Forest should make the following determinations and include them in the Final Plan. Decide whether a river is eligible for national designation, and declare what classification it would have, if designated.

The Forest decided if a river was eligible for national designation by analyzing seven rivers identified in the 1982 National Wild Rivers Inventory. The Forest completed eligible classifications for a total of 224 miles of rivers with about 75 miles being within the forest boundaries. These efforts were coordinated with two national parks, the BLM, one national monument, the national forests, and various public environmental groups

360/1537

American Alpine Club is pleased to submit comments on the Proposed Plan. Good Points: WSR would prevent severe objectionable hydroelectric projects. We are concerned about diversion of the Merced below Yosemite Valley ("El Portal" Project) and dam at Hemlock Crossing or North Fork of San Joaquin, within the Ansel Adams Wilderness. We appreciate the clear discussion of roadless areas and disposition and map in Appendix H. No other is so forthright.

Thank you for your comments concerning the LMP WSR recommendations. The Merced River has been designated a Wild and Scenic River by a Congressional Act of 1987. No Hydroelectric projects will be allowed. See response to 370/1540 concerning the Hemlock Crossing issue. A hydroelectric project could be allowed under the Wilderness Act, however, an acceptance of the Forest's "Wild" designation could prohibit this project. See response to 375/0283 for discussion of the roadless areas

360/1541 & 1381

A bright point in the Plan is the recommendation that portions of seven rivers, some 220 miles, be designated WSR. However, the Kings River above Rogers Crossing should be included in the recommendation as well.

The Forest was not responsible for the recommendations concerning the main Kings River. However, this area has now been designated a Special Management Area by an Act of Congress (1987) with administration responsibility given to the Forest.

360/1595

Some changes I would like to see adopted in the final plan: Kings River should be designated as a WSR. Kings River Canyon and Mt. Raymond Areas should be designated as a Wilderness. Merced River Canyon should be a dispersed recreation area. Merced River below Briceburg should also be considered for a WSR designation.

A portion of the main Kings has been designated a W/R and a 49,000 acre area has been designated a Special Management Area by a 1987 Act of Congress. The Preferred Alternative will show the 6,850 acre Mt. Raymond area as dispersed recreation - no scheduled harvest area. The South Fork Merced which runs through the Mt. Raymond area, has been designated as a WSR by Congress, and there will be no regulated timber harvesting within the river corridor. The Merced River below Briceburg was eligible for classification and was considered for WSR designation.

360/1647

We would like to take exception to your intention stated in the Plan pg.3-5 Sec. 3.6, which states that "...unless Congress acts on these designated river recommendations, no management activities will take place that preclude designation " In light of DEIS pg.4-17 Sec. 4.4.2 we consider this as being stalled long enough, unless the intention is to prevent the project by simply stalling forever.

The 100th Congress has acted on the disposition of the Merced, South Fork Merced, Middle Fork Kings, South Fork Kings and portions of the main Kings Rivers by designating these as wild and scenic rivers As stated in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, the final LMP will indicate that rivers under study will retain wording like, "no management activities will take place that preclude designation "

360/1658

I support Alternative A for W/S designations of the Merced River. Segment 7 on the South Fork should be classified scenic only, and wild from Hite Cove to the private property. S&G 229-232 are supported for management

Thank you for your support Segment 7 on the South Fork will have a "scenic" recommendation. A new Segment 8, about one-half mile downstream from Hite Cove to the Merced/South Fork Merced confluence, will have a "wild" recommendation. However, the final disposition of these classifications will be determined through an Environmental Analysis apart from the Forest Plan. We have three years from the time Congress passed the act in November, 1987 to complete these WSR plans. More analysis and public involvement will have to be completed at the Forest level. We will consider your comments and implementation of Draft Plan S&Gs #231-234 for the Merced, South Fork Merced during this planning phase.

360/1683

I'd like you to adopt Alternative E - the Amenity Alternative! However, Alternative E does not designate (rather call for designation) the entire main fork and south fork as WSR and I think it should

The Preferred Alternative recommends 222 miles of river be designated. Alternative E, the Amenity Alternative, recommends 224 miles of river be designated, which is 99% of what you would like. See response to 360/1647

360/1684

I support Alternative A, although E would be even better. I am particularly concerned about hare-brained hydro schemes which could negatively affect the pristine canyons forever, like KRCD's proposed Rogers Crossing dam or plans for the main Merced River Canyon between Briceburg and Portal

Thank you for your comment. See response to 360/1230 and 360/1595

360/1700

We support the Forest Service in adopting the excellent WSR recommendations. We commend the Forest Service for its pivotal cooperation and coordination with other agencies in preparing a comprehensive protection plan for each river, including lands outside Forest boundaries

We received excellent support and cooperation from other federal agencies, state and private environmental, resource and utility management groups. These groups contributed by reviewing and commenting on the early WSR preliminary drafts The LMP documents showed the results of these efforts.

360/1702

An increase in the volume of timber could be made with a reduction in the number of miles of rivers recommended for "Wild and Scenic River" classification

Wild and Scenic River proposals did not reduce timber harvest in the Preferred Alternative.

360/1704

I am writing concerning the proposal to recommend WSR status for Merced, South, North, Middle and upper San Joaquin, Middle Fork Kings, and South Fork Merced, and wilderness status of upper Kings River Canyon. I support development of these types of natural areas

Thank you for your comment. See response to 360/1647.

360/1775

I support your proposals for WSR designations. I would like to see some of the segments upgraded from scenic to wild and from recreational to scenic and wild. Segment 7 of the South Fork Merced is one such section that should have most of it upgraded from scenic to wild. I would like to see parts of Segments 6, 7 and 9 of the main Merced upgraded to wild or scenic. I would especially like the lower section of Segment 9 made wild or scenic.

Thank you for your support. Congress has designated the South Fork and the main Merced as W/S rivers. The disposition of the segments will be determined through an Environmental Analysis apart from the Forest Plan. We will examine your recommendations during this planning process. See response to 360/1658

360/1797

We do not oppose or support WSR designations, although we recognize them to be strongly supported by environmental groups and opposed by water and dam user groups. We are opposed to adding to WSR. The protection should be limited to 1/4 mile of each side of the river and no more. Established 4WD access points and river crossings should be, and can be, provided for in a W/S river legislation management plan, such as on the middle fork of the Feather River.

OHV motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited or restricted to protect the river values within the 1/2 mile river corridor designated as W/S. Project work and river management plans will detail these management controls. See response to 360/1775.

360/1841

With a proposed 225 miles of W/S rivers, that places full control of the water to the discretion of the U. S. Congress, thereby removing any former existing water rights on the land and the lands within 1/4 mile of the river. In other words, what is going to happen here is if Congress decrees W/S status on the river, if Los Angeles needs the water more than we do, we are going to have another Owens Valley.

Major diversion of water is not permitted under congressionally designated W/S rivers.

361-MERCED RIVER

361/0017

I endorse the Forest plans proposal for wild and scenic status for Merced River. A motorcycle trail to the South Fork is a move which appears inconsistent with the aim of the plan.

Thank you for your comment. See response to 360/1797 concerning motorized travel

361/0021

I support retaining only those elements that keep the "wild" status of Merced River including South Fork Merced.

Approximately 44% or eight segments of South Fork Merced and Merced River will be recommended "wild". The highest eligible classification of the remaining segments is "recreational" or "scenic." See response to 360/1658.

361/0052

I support making Merced River wild and scenic.

Congress agrees with you. See response to 360/1230.

361/0063

Mariposa County's interest is mentioned on Appendix page 7-80 as having a desire to withdraw water from Merced or South Fork Merced. It's impractical for Mariposa, but could put an end to the destruction of the resource area by larger wealthier entities.

Thank you for your comment

361/0078

Appendix pg 7-77, describing Merced River and Lake McClure, needs clarification of some statements made in the document as shown on the included maps. Normal maximum water surface elevation of Lake McClure is 867.0 and not 860.0. The new Exchequer Spillway Design Flood Pool is at elevation 873.3 Merced Irrigation Dist FERC No 2179 boundary ends upstream and crosses the river at the north line of Sec 1T 4S., R17E., M.D B. & M.

We agree, the Preferred Alternative will clarify "to Lake McClure" by saying, "to point of maximum flood control storage of Lake McClure " The recommended mileage for Merced River will be reduced from 82 0 to 79 0 in the LMP as a result of this change. The 1987 Congressional Wild and Scenic River Act for Merced River however, will consist of approximately 71 miles and end at a point 300 feet upstream of the confluence with Bear Creek.

361/0181

We are concerned with preservation of Merced River, and support the Forest Service recommendation that the entire 82 miles from the Merced's headwaters be designated as W/S. We believe the Forest Service proposal represents a fair and accurate appraisal of the public resource values of a free-flowing river.

Thank you for your support. See response to 360/0691.

I believe that Segment 10 of Merced River contains more "outstanding remarkable" value than those identified by the Forest Service. The scenic and geologic values of Quarter Mile Rapid and North Fork Falls are, in our opinion, outstanding and remarkable. The subtle cause-and-effect relationships between geology and whitewater is evidenced more dramatically here than at any other site we know of in California.

The "outstanding remarkable" values for Segments 9 and 10 for Merced River were given to the Forest Service by the BLM, who has the administrative responsibility for these segments. The Preferred Alternative will show Segment 10 as "outstanding" if BLM concurs.

361/0219

Merced River should be designated wild and scenic and recreational river from their headwaters in Yosemite National Park to the high water mark on Lake McClure Reservoir.

Merced River has been designated as a Wild and Scenic River from the headwaters in Yosemite National Park to a point 300 feet upstream of the confluence with Bear Creek on BLM lands. The original LMP recommendation was to the high water mark on the Lake McClure Reservoir (Appendix pg 7-114).

361/0395

I recommend Merced River be designated as a national wild and scenic river. This recommendation is threatened by the El Portal Dam Project. I urge you to prevent FERC from granting this license.

Merced River has been designated. See response to 361/0219.

361/0755 & 0024

I recommend protection of the entire Merced River including the lower part between Briceburg and Lake McClure

Merced River has been designated by an Act of Congress. See response to 361/0219

361/0777

I would like to applaud the Forest for it's W/R recommendations, especially those that will preclude water and power dams under consideration for Merced, South Fork Merced, and North Fork San Joaquin Rivers.

Thank you for your support

361/0861 & 1786

The Merced canyons should be designated dispersed recreation - no timber harvest. Special areas must be protected'

We have made the change you suggest Management Area 2 is now dispersed recreation - no timber harvest.

361/0963

The recommendation for WSR status for Merced River is to be commended.

Thank you for your support.

361/0985

I applaud your Plan for including Merced River as a WSR.

Thank you for your support.

361/1226

I am writing to express my appreciation for the efforts of the Forest toward giving W/S status to segments of the Merced River.

Thank you for your support See response to 360/1700.

361/1271

I strongly support the W/S designation for Merced River

Merced River has been designated See response to 361/0219.

361/1285

I support Alternative A for Merced River watershed except the W/S designation for Segment 7 on South Fork Merced River Segment 7 on South Fork Merced River, in my opinion, is generally inaccessible to motor vehicles and should be recommended for wild designation, not scenic.

Thank you for supporting the Preferred Alternative for the W/S rivers. The disposition of Segment 7 on South Fork Merced Rivers will be determined through an Environmental Analysis apart from the Forest Plan.

361/1291

I oppose any proposed designation of Merced River under the WSR system upstream of the Yosemite Park boundary.

The 100th Congress has acted on the disposition of Merced River within Yosemite and downstream of the Yosemite Park boundary.

361/1302

I urge you to do all you can to have Merced River flow free and unimpeded, from its headwaters to Lake McClure.

See response to 361/1642.

361/1305

We are delighted to hear that you are recommending WSR designations for San Joaquin and Merced Rivers.

We have recommended and Congress has already designated portions of Merced and King Rivers. See responses to 360/1647.

361/1343

A reservoir at Yosemite Park's entrance, taking away the cascading Merced will be terrible.

There will be no reservoir at the Yosemite Park entrance as a result of the W/S designation for this portion of Merced River.

361/1369 & 0015

I feel South Fork Merced River should be designated wild, not scenic, from Hites Cove to the private property line at Savage's. Secondly, designating Iron Creek Trail as a 2WD trail is unacceptable. It is in conflict with your proposed wild designation of the river as the trail parallels the river within 1/4 mile of its channel. Promoting 2WD use on that trail would mean that hikers and equestrians would be excluded. Iron Creek Trail is a historic trail and should not be denigrated by designating it a 2WD trail.

South Fork Merced River has been designated as a wild and scenic river. Classification and use of Segment 7 will be determined through environmental analysis apart from the Forest Plan. The Iron Creek 4WD Trail will be a part of that analysis. This trail issue (acceptable use vs. unacceptable use) will be resolved in the Environmental Analysis and displayed in a management plan.

361/1382

I am particularly pleased with the recommendation for designation of Merced and South Fork Merced as WSR. Segment 7 of the lower section of South Fork Merced has been classified scenic. It is entirely deserving of wild status, and full protection is necessary to keep the area as it is. Scenic classification would allow the intrusion of mining, which would significantly reduce the wild nature of the area.

We are glad you are pleased with the recommendations. Merced and South Fork Merced Rivers have been designated by public law as Wild and Scenic Rivers. Your recommendation to classify Segment 7 of South Fork Merced "wild" instead of "scenic" will be determined through an Environmental Analysis apart from the Forest Plan. See response to 360/1658.

361/1390

In Appendices pg. 7-79 under "Flow Data: Merced River near Briceburg," the drainage area above gage, is given as 6,901 sq. mi. The drainage area at Briceburg must be less than at Bagby, which is given as 912 sq. mi. A check with the U.S.G.S. office in Merced shows the Briceburg drainage area to be 691 sq. mi.

Thank you for finding this error. The Preferred Alternative will show 691 square miles.

The map of Merced River on page 7-91 places the lower boundary of the WSR study corridor at the 837 foot elevation contour. The elevation of the ungated trailway is 868 feet. It is customary to define the terminus of a WSR corridor at the contour which coincides with the high water mark at the maximum flood control storage capacity. Although at the maximum design discharge capacity of 375,000 cfs, the lake level would be at 879.2 ft. This would be an ephemeral condition and is not reflective of maximum storage capacity.

The map in this Appendix and all references to Lake McClure will be changed to "to the point of maximum flood control storage of Lake McClure." See response to 361/0078.

361/1416

Alternative A is the most workable alternative with the following qualification: Segment 10 on Merced River should have the western boundary clearly defined as being contiguous with the maximum potential water storage elevation of Lake McClure, as depicted on Merced Irrigation District

The Preferred Alternative will show the Segment 10 western boundary and the references to Lake McClure as indicated on the Merced Irrigation District maps as contiguous with the maximum floor control storage of Lake McClure.

We view Alternative A of the draft as the most workable alternative, with the following qualifications Segment 10 on Merced River appears suitable for scenic designation rather than wild, based on the suitability/eligibility guidelines of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

According to the classification/eligibility analysis completed for Segment 10, this portion qualifies as "Wild " This means all questions relating to the classification criteria had to be answered, "Yes." All of them were. For example, for Criteria 1, the questions were: Free of impoundments? Yes Generally inaccessible except to trail? Yes Watershed/shoreline essentially primitive? Yes. Waters unpolluted? Yes. These answers have been confirmed by the responsible agency, the BLM.

361/1511

The goal of the Merced Canyon Committee, to secure WSR status for the main stem of the Merced River to Lake McClure, has been well publicized. This goal coincides with the recommendation in Alternative A I want to convey my support of the recommendation.

The Preferred Alternative will show Merced River as a W/S river for approximately 71 miles, from the headwaters within Yosemite National Park to a point 300 feet upstream of the confluence with Bear Creek on BLM lands. This will be in accordance with the 1987 Congressional Act for this river The goal of the Merced Canyon Committee has basically been met.

361/1512 & 0219

We support the emphasis in the plan of protecting Merced River and South Fork Merced in the WSR system We are concerned that the South Fork Merced, an important wildlife habitat for Yosemite's deer herd and the part of main stem viewed by park visitors be protected. We urge the Forest Service to ask FERC to delay action on the proposed El Portal project.

Both Merced and South Fork Merced have been designated W/S rivers by an Act of Congress See response to 360/1230

361/1533

Merced River outside Yosemite National Park boundaries has been threatened, and should be strongly supported for inclusion in the WSR system. The conservation alternative concurs with all the comments and recommendations of the Merced Canyon Committee in its official response to the Plan with regard to this river

Thank you for concurring with the W/S river recommendations for Merced River South Fork Merced and Merced Rivers have been designated by an Act of Congress as wild and scenic rivers. See response to 360/0691

361/1558

Please provide wilderness status and protection for Merced River.

Designation of W/S status will provide protection for Merced and South Fork Merced Rivers. See response to 361/0219

361/1594

I support Alternative E of the Forest Plan because of it supports of WSR status for South Fork Merced River

Alternative A and Alternative E recommend the same classifications for South Fork Merced River.

361/1642

Let me express my delight at the Forest's recommendation for a WSR Merced River. I ask that consideration for any proposed hydroprojects be held until Congress decides how to protect the river. Might I recommend that the section from Hites Cove to the private property line, 3/4 mile from the confluence with the main fork be classified wild rather than scenic.

The river was designated by public law as a W/S river. The classification of the Hites Cove area on South Fork Merced River will be determined through an Environmental Analysis apart from the Forest Plan.

361/1647

We recommend these changes in the proposed plan. "No designation" for the Merced River corridor. "No designation" for the section of river from Yosemite Park boundary to a point downstream of the proposed El Portal Powerhouse trailrace. This would facilitate all proposed and future developments. The inclusion of "grandfathering" provisions in any designation within Sections 6 and 7.

The 100th Congress has acted on the disposition of Merced and South Fork Merced by designating these rivers as wild and scenic. See response to 361/0219.

361/1707

I support your proposals which recommend classifying portions of Merced River as WSR.

Thank you for your support. See response to 361/0219.

361/1719

I would like to commend the Forest Service in their recommendation for WSR status for Merced River.

Thank you for your comment.

362-SOUTH FORK OF THE MERCED RIVER

362/0063

Hites Cove shouldn't be designated scenic. Your "wild" classification should extend to the private property line at Savages Trading Post. The Hites Cove Mine has been in default for 100 years. The two rough roads in the region do not parallel the South Fork. Therefore, they do not alter its characteristics sufficiently to warrant adopting scenic classification. I have misgivings about bridges on the south fork.

The disposition of the W/S classification for this segment of South Fork Merced will be determined through an Environmental Analysis apart from the Forest Plan. See response to 360/1658.

362/0279

Designate South Fork Merced as WSR and recreational rivers from their headwaters in Yosemite National Park to the high water mark of Lake McClure. Delay any approval of pending dam projects on the river until Congress has had the opportunity to act on the Forest's recommendations.

Congress has designated the rivers. See response to 361/0219.

362/0286

We support your proposed research natural area and proposed dispersed recreation management area.

Thank you for your support.

362/0599

We support the WSR recommendations for North Fork San Joaquin River, Merced River, and South Fork Merced River.

Thank you for your support.

362/0600

I wish to express my support for making Merced River South Fork Merced a WSR area.

Congress has designated these rivers See response to 361/0219.

362/0777

I would like to applaud the Forest's WSR recommendations, especially those that will preclude water and power dams under consideration for Merced, South Fork Merced and North Fork San Joaquin I support the conservation alternative

Thank you for your comment See response to 360/1537

362/1161

South Fork Merced River should be classified wild near Hites Cove. OHV use should not be encouraged on Iron Mt. Trail down to Hites Cove OHV use is not compatible with the "wild" classification Back country footbridges sound like a neat idea on the South Fork

See response to 360/1658 for Hites Cove area See response to 360/1775 and 1797 for the OHV use

362/1163

I support the WSR recommendations for two forks of Merced River I have seen an alarming increase in resource harvest, development and exploitation of Merced and North Fork San Joaquin.

Thank you for your support.

362/1304

I would like to see South Fork from Hites Cove to Merced River be designated wild, not just scenic, so that it will be protected from mining

See response to 360/1658 concerning Hites Cove. New mining claims and mineral leases would be prohibited under the wild classification New mining claims and mineral leases could be allowed (subject to specific agency regulations) under the scenic classification.

362/1308

We support the Forest's WSR recommendations for South Fork Merced.

Thank you for your support

362/1315

I was pleased to hear that your Plan is proposing WSR status for South Fork Merced

Thank you for your comment

362/1316

I support your designation of South Fork Merced as W/S

Thank you for your support

362/1379

First, I would like to express my support for the Plan proposal to provide W/S status to the Merced River South Fork I urge a more complete protection policy that would upgrade protection for the lower stretch of the South Fork (Hites Cove to the confluence with the main stem of the Merced

River). Please change the protection status from "scenic" to "wild." I also urge you to designate WSR to Lake McClure.

Thank you for your support. We will examine your recommendations during a River Management Plan planning process. See response to 360/1775. The River from Briceburg to Lake McClure will be considered as a wild and scenic river by the BLM.

362/1390

There is an ongoing campaign of innuendo that WSR designation of the entire river will foreclose the county's ability to obtain domestic water from the south fork. Development of domestic water from this source, whether the river is WSR or not, is foreclosed by economics.

Thank you for your comment.

Appendices pg 7-86 under "Flow Data: South Fork Merced River" ..(USGS Gage #11-2680, from 1950-1959 25 years). The 25 year period does not agree with the 1950-1959 dates. I believe the dates should be 1935-1959.

Thank you for finding this error. Please note also that the flow data: for South Fork Merced River at Wawona shows "1911-1921: 6 years." We will change this to read "1911-1921: 10 years."

Appendix Table E.058, the recommendation for Segment 7 of South Fork in Alt. A is scenic. This choice apparently results from the NO response to Table E.038 to the "Generally Inaccessible Except By Trail" criterion. The operational word here would seem to be "generally." My son has driven the Hites Cove Road and informs me that even for a 4WD vehicle, this is not a trip for the average driver to attempt. I would prefer to see this segment labeled "scenic."

You are right! The reason the forest recommended this segment "scenic" is because the two existing 4WD mining roads extending down to this area from both sides (the south side 4WD road actually parallels the river for about a mile) of the river prompted a "No" answer for the "generally inaccessible except by trail" criterion in the classification analysis. In fact because of the existing old mining structures there could be a "No" answer for the "Watershed/shoreline essentially primitive" criterion in the classification analysis. However, based on your specific input and others who are concerned with this segment's classification, we will re-examine this classification. A possible strategy is to scale down this segment to approximately two miles and classify the remaining four mile portion as a "wild" segment. Here the analysis would indicate that there are only foot-trails close to the river, with no existing structures and therefore it would be eligible for a "wild" classification. See responses to 360/1658, 361/1369, 362/1304, 0015 and 0063.

362/1469

South Fork Merced River area should be designated "dispersed recreation-no timber harvest."

Merced Canyon will be designated developed and dispersed recreation. See responses to 361/0861 and 1786.

362/1512

We support the emphasis in the Plan of protecting Merced River and South Fork Merced in the WSR system. We are concerned that the south fork, an important wildlife habitat for Yosemite's deer herd and the part of the main stem viewed by park visitors, be protected. We urge the Forest Service to ask FERC to delay action on the proposed El Portal project.

Congress has designated the rivers and protection is given to the river in accordance with the Wild and Scenic River Act. See response to 361/1647.

362/1537

The South Fork Merced should be made part of Yosemite National Park so that Forest Service management activities do not compromise park resources. The area should be given the most restrictive management that major existing developments permit. Mt. Raymond area should be recommended for immediate Wilderness classification.

The 22 miles of upper South Fork Merced that are within Yosemite National Park will remain under their administrative control. The three miles of South Fork Merced will remain jointly under the control of Yosemite and the Sierra Forest. The lower South Fork Merced, consisting of 18 miles that is within the Forest, will remain under their administrative control. The Mt. Raymond area will remain as a nonwilderness area in accordance with the California Wilderness Act of 1984. See response to 375/1811 and 1056

362/1682

We recommend South Fork Merced be wild in its entirety without bridges or other constructed features and no OHV routes in the vicinity. An obliteration plan needs to be developed for removal of timber access and other roads, particularly to the west of the river.

Concerning the scenic or wild classification issues, see response to 362/1390. Depending on the classification assigned, your recommendation to have an obliteration plan is a good idea. You may want to participate in future public meetings concerning the use of this river segment

362/1700

We disagree with the Forest Service's proposal to classify the lower South Fork Merced River paralleling Hites Cove Trail and Hites Cove jeep trail as scenic. This designation could allow potentially destructive mining projects. We urge the Forest Service to recommend wild designation for the river upstream of the private developments at the south fork confluence

Your concerns for W/S classification of South Fork have been expressed by other folks. The Forest will re-examine this issue. See response to 361/1390.

362/1715

I support protective measures for the land along South Fork Merced which would restrict timber harvesting and road building in the surrounding area, especially on slopes that are visible from the trail that parallels the river.

Alternative A recommends that South Fork Merced be managed by W/S guidelines after the river is designated. We have changed Management Area 2 from allowing timber harvest on suitable lands to dispersed recreation - no timber harvest.

362/1791 & 0018

I feel the Forest Service should ask FERC to delay decisions until Congress acts on WSR proposal.

Congress has acted on South Fork Merced, Merced, Middle Fork Kings, South Fork Kings, and Kings Rivers by designating these wild and scenic rivers. See response to 361/1647.

363-NORTH FORK OF THE SAN JOAQUIN

363/0859

I strongly support WSR status for San Joaquin River.

Thank you for your support

363/0914 & 0018

I strongly recommend WSR status for North Fork San Joaquin. In particular, it is extremely important that we prevent water and power dams from being built.

Thank you for your comment. See response to 370/1540, concerning hydroelectric-power dams within wilderness areas.

363/0952

Kings, Merced, South Fork Merced and North Fork San Joaquin need to be protected from proposed intrusions.

The Kings, Merced and South Fork Merced Rivers are protected from certain management activities within the river corridors. The North Fork San Joaquin will be protected if and when designated Wild and Scenic. See response to 362/1791.

363/1315

I am pleased to hear that you are recommending WSR status for North Fork San Joaquin

Thank you for your comment See response to 370/1540.

363/1533

In particular, North Fork San Joaquin River has been threatened, and should be strongly supported for inclusion in the W/S system. The conservation alternative concurs with all the comments and recommendation of the Merced Canyon Committee in its official response to the Plan with regard to the river.

Thank you for your comment.

363/1721

I am pleased with the Forest's WSR recommendations that exclude dams on North Fork San Joaquin. Dams distort water management therefore, I ask your support for the above mentioned wild and free flowing river. There are enough areas being destroyed by OHVs. Livestock grazers are not paying a fair fee.

See response to 370/1540.

364-MIDDLE FORK OF THE SAN JOAQUIN

364/0914

I strongly recommend W/S status for Middle Fork San Joaquin. In particular, it is extremely important to preclude water and power dams.

Thank you for your comment.

364/0933

Please grant W/S status for South Fork Merced River, the forks of the San Joaquin River, and Middle Fork Kings River.

Thank you for your comment. See response to 362/1794.

364/1315

I am pleased to hear that your draft LMP is proposing to recommend W/S status for Middle Fork San Joaquin.

Thank you for your comment.

364/1777

I support the Plan's recommendation for W/S designation for Merced, South Fork Merced, North Fork San Joaquin, upper San Joaquin, and Middle Fork Kings Rivers. The most threatened segments of these rivers should be given the most emphasis and priority. These are the South Fork and main stem Merced River below the Yosemite boundary and all the North Fork San Joaquin.

See response to 360/1647.

365-SOUTH FORK OF THE SAN JOAQUIN

365/0984

I support recommendations for W/S status for South Fork San Joaquin

Thank you for your support.

365/1285

Concerning the San Joaquin River Watershed at South Fork, I would like to see the Forest eliminate the OHV corridor that presently exists between Courtright Reservoir and Kaiser Pass Road.

The Preferred Alternative will retain the OHV corridor from Courtright Reservoir to Kaiser Pass Road, because the 1984 California Wilderness Act excluded a 600 ft corridor due to an established use by OHV users.

366-MIDDLE FORK OF THE KINGS

366/0218

I hope you will give W/S status for portions of the Kings River

The Middle Fork Kings and South Fork Kings have been recommended by Sierra and Sequoia National Forests. By Congressional Act, portions of the Kings, Middle and South Fork Kings have been designated W/S rivers. See response to 360/1647.

366/0808

I would like to see W/S studies for all appropriate segments of South, Middle, and North Fork San Joaquin and upper San Joaquin, Middle Fork Kings, and South Fork Merced.

See response to 363/0952.

366/0913

I support the Plan which recommends W/S status for Middle Fork Kings.

Thank you for your comment. See response to 362/1791.

366/0933

Please grant W/S status for South Fork Merced River, the forks of San Joaquin River, and Middle Fork Kings River.

Congress has the authority to designate wild and scenic river areas, the Forest recommends. The Forest has recommended these rivers. See response to 360/1647.

366/1315

I am pleased to hear that your Plan is proposing to recommend W/S status for Middle Fork Kings River.

Thank you for your comment See response to 362/1794 and 366/1667.

366/1667

We ask that you include Kings River above Rodgers Crossing in your recommendation to Congress for inclusion in the national WSR system.

The responsibility for recommending this portion of Kings River belongs to Sequoia National Forest. However, the Kings River area has been designated a Special Management Area by a 1987 Congressional Act, along with portions of Kings and South Kings River See response to 360/1230.

366/1775

You should have analyzed the Kings River for W/S status. The upper portion above Garnet Dike CG should have been recommended for wild classification.

Thank you for this suggestion, but the responsibility for classification and recommendation for South and main Kings River belongs to Sequoia National Forest See response to 360/1230.

366/1777

We support the Plan's recommendation for W/S designation for Merced, South Fork Merced, North Fork San Joaquin, upper San Joaquin, and Middle Fork Kings Rivers. The most threatened segments of these rivers should be given the most emphasis and priority. These are South Fork and main Merced River below Yosemite National Park and all of North Fork San Joaquin.

See response to 360/1647.

366/1809

I support the Forest's recommendations for W/S protection but would also like to have Kings River above the confluence with North Fork Kings included in the W/S status.

Thank you for your support. See response to 360/1775 and 1230

367-MAIN FORK OF THE KINGS

367/1282

W/S designation should also be recommended for the main Kings

See responses to 360/1230.

367/1528

I am pleased with the step you've taken, including almost the entire mileage of unimpeded rivers within the Forest. Your recommendations for classification is one of the real strengths of the Plan. The Forest Service should have made a recommendation for the main Kings River. Using the excuse that feasibility studies were in progress for a dam at Rodgers Crossing as a reason for inaction is a cop-out

Thank you for suggesting the W/S recommendations as one of the strengths of the Plan. Concerning why the Forest did not complete feasibility studies for the main Kings River, see response to 360/1230 However, since this area has been designated as a Special Management Area by a 1987 Congressional Act, eligibility river studies can now take place and be incorporated within the SMA plan, which is scheduled to be completed in 1991.

367/1535

The Forest has unique WSR resources, and we congratulate the staff for recommending 225 miles of seven rivers for WSR protection. We support designation to the maximum eligible level for Kings River, and the prevention of unwise dam building in Ansel Adams Wilderness. Times are changing and recreation is becoming more important than energy development

Thank you for supporting the W/S river recommendations. South Fork, Middle Fork and portions of the main Kings River have been designated a special management area by a 1987 Act of Congress.

370-WILDERNESS AREAS

370/0016

I prefer Alt E as it appears to be the most beneficial to the environment and recreation. I'm strongly in favor of the addition of 14,490 acres of land to the wilderness system in the Kings River area, and the addition of 212 miles of rivers added to the WSR system. I like its effects on the wildlife and their habitat. You should establish a large number of Special Management Areas for both scientific and utilization purposes.

The President has signed legislation which establishes about 48,668 acres of the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests as the Kings River Special Management Area. The disposition of this area in the DEIS Sec 3 5 3 of the Draft LMP has been resolved. The Preferred Alternative recommended 222 miles of rivers to be added to the W/S river system

370/0059

The existing wilderness boundary is very poorly drawn in the Rancheria Creek area

The Rancheria area has 13,330 acres, of which 6,250 acres are now in wilderness by passage of the California Wilderness Act of 1984. The boundaries for these areas were determined by Congress.

370/0084

I urge you to protect roadless areas, recommend wilderness for some of the 176,000 roadless acres in the Forest, limit clearcutting, and protect wildlife

The disposition of the roadless areas was resolved by the passage of the California Wilderness Act of 1984. Those areas not designated as wilderness were made available for multiple use and will not require further study until the Plan is revised. The existing semiprimitive non-motorized areas found outside the designated wilderness areas will be protected using the standard and guideline prescriptions for each management area

370/0096

I saw something about limiting military flights over the national forest every 2 years. What do you mean? The military has helped plenty to harm the habitat and life in our forests. So really get on them.

Military aircraft are required to fly at elevations of 5,000 feet or more above wilderness areas. Violations of airspace are reported by visitors, but it is almost impossible to trace aircraft to the originating military base. Starting the summer of 1988, a centralized communication system will provide annual notification of airspace restrictions to military bases

370/0154

When people go to the mountains, they want wilderness, not FM radio.

Thank you for your comment.

370/0178

In what ways will you provide moderate increases in the opportunities for public use, enjoyment, and understanding of the wilderness?

Specific provisions for each wilderness area will be clearly defined within the wilderness plans. Possibilities would include better communication, information and educational media, better management of trail systems to include maintenance and construction, more interpretation and greater frequency of contact with wilderness rangers.

370/0208

As a concerned Kings River environmentalist, I would like to know the status of the 1.4 million acres between Kings Canyon and Yosemite National Park. Will it be preserved in such a manner as to provide extensive hiking trails which undergo routine maintenance?

The 1.4 million acres you speak of is the entire Sierra National Forest. It is managed for wilderness and multiple use, and there are about 1,100 miles of trail in the Forest for hiking and horseback riding. The objective is to preserve these trails, which vary in quality from trails developed for intensive use to barely defined routes. Many existing trails need routine maintenance to reduce resource damage or ensure public safety. Of course, this will depend on Congressional appropriations for maintenance, and the assistance of many volunteer groups who want to help meet these objectives.

370/0210

Improvements to the plan that I would like to offer are: more wilderness areas, especially the Kings River Roadless Area; less land for timber, less land for grazing; and better maintenance of trails.

The final LMP will address your concern for the Kings River area. Congress has designated this area as a Special Management Area, and the area will be managed according to the Act. Management of the Kings River SMA has many features in common with Wilderness Management. The California Wilderness Act of 1984 has recently added more wilderness to the Forest which should give the Forest an acceptable proportion of wilderness and other resource use lands. Timber and grazing are legitimate uses of the Forest. This Plan creates a balance between timber, grazing and other resources

370/0235

I would like you to consider conserving the west slope of Sierra Nevada between Kings Canyon and Yosemite National Park.

The area between Kings Canyon and Yosemite National Parks is the Sierra National Forest. We are attempting to conserve and use it by development of this LMP which provides management direction for the Forest.

370/0298

I question the criterion the Forest Service used to assess the need for Wilderness. DEIS implies that the value of wilderness is based on the number of people who seek recreation. That is a narrow view for the Forest Service to take. While human recreation is one benefit of wilderness, the land has far greater value than for human use. We cannot have too much wilderness if we are to accept the rightful freedoms of other living things besides humans.

The Forest Service must follow the Wilderness Act of 1964, which states that wilderness "shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness." Human use is important according to this act. However, we will re-examine the wording in the LMP and make changes as necessary.

370/0304

Wilderness visitors are expected to increase 110% while wilderness acres are to remain constant. This does not sound balanced.

The existing wilderness acreage is not totally utilized by the current number of visitors. Therefore, the supply of wilderness exceeds the demand

370/0306

The Plan states we should "Provide moderate increases in opportunities for public use, enjoyment, and understanding of wilderness." I disagree with this action, because it would be invading the animals' environment. The animals don't want us.

We would like to increase the public's understanding of the wilderness. We feel that by better education and understanding of the wilderness that people will learn to respect the environment where they live. We all share the responsibility to protect the animals' living space. We can achieve this by increasing public awareness of wilderness values.

370/0416

It appears that restrictive resource use policies, coupled with millions of acres placed in wilderness, have severely handicapped the utilization of our renewable natural resources.

Restrictive resource land use policies are regulated by Congressional acts. The Forest cannot change this fact. The LMP, through the preferred alternative recommendations, attempts to provide the most optimal mix of land uses to satisfy identified issues and concerns. Other multiple uses, including renewable natural resources, will be considered along with other values for the remainder of the 57% of the Forest land base.

370/0541

I can't understand why the environmental groups demand more wilderness areas and less productive measures for the Forest

Environmental groups are free to demand more wilderness and production groups are free to demand less wilderness. Congress has decided that disposition of the wilderness in the Forest has been resolved for this planning period. All areas not designated by the California Wilderness Act of 1984 will be available for multiple uses other than wilderness. The Preferred Alternative will so state.

370/0548

We currently have 41% wilderness area in the Sierra, and we have Yosemite National Park beyond that. When I hear people advocate taking timber areas out of production to give animals (spotted owls) more living area, I have to wonder who is fooling who.

It is true that the Forest currently has about 41% within the wilderness system and that other resources like spotted owls might remove additional lands from timber production. The LMP, through the Preferred Alternative recommendations, attempts to provide the most optimal and compatible mix of land uses that satisfy identified issues and concerns like the spotted owl. This will always involve compromise. NEPA requires an environmental analysis which includes effects on all resources

370/0626

I feel that parts of our forests should be preserved as wilderness areas, but I also feel that enough land has been set aside for that purpose and that the remainder of the land should be developed for recreation and timber uses

The final LMP will show no additional lands allocated for future wilderness. The Forest will have about 60% of the land base used for other resource activities. The Plan did indicate the Kings River B5-198 was the only area included in the California Wilderness Act for further planning, however, this area has been designated a Special Management Area by a Congressional Act in 1987 and will be managed accordingly

370/0634

The environmental groups demand more wilderness areas. I think we have more than enough parks and wilderness.

Congress presently agrees that those areas not designated as wilderness in the California Wilderness Act of 1984 are available for multiple uses other than wilderness.

370/0654

It is very important that no more lands are set aside into areas that can not be used for timber harvesting.

See response to 370/0634

370/0993

While released under the California Wilderness Act of 1984, these areas contiguous to established wilderness, should receive wilderness consideration rather than just writing off wilderness potential. Contiguous areas on the Forest include areas near Clover Meadow, Portugese Flat, Dinkey Lakes, and Garlic Meadow. I strongly support further wilderness planning for Middle Fork Kings River and contiguous areas.

The Middle Fork Kings River is completely within the Monarch Wilderness and has been designated a WSR by an Act of Congress. The Garlic Falls area has been designated a Special Management Area by an Act of Congress and will be managed similar to a wilderness area. Thirty thousand acres of the Dinkey Lakes area was added to wilderness in 1984. The area adjacent to Dinkey Lakes, not included in wilderness, has been designated in the Plan as Dispersed Recreation with no scheduled timber harvest. Those areas not designated as wilderness were made available for multiple uses other than wilderness and will not require further study.

370/1002

With more than 40% of your forest already in wilderness, other demands on the forest must now take precedence

Thank you for your comment. See response to 370/0416

370/1055

Along with trail rehabilitation, there should be a plan that routes trails around meadows rather than through them.

Trails within wilderness areas that can be routed around meadows is an objective of both the Forest Service, environmental groups and most users of the trails. However, because of heavy trail use, some of the edge routes started to go through the meadows. This heavy use of some wilderness areas has indicated a need for user controls. Limits on group size and length of stay have been implemented. This type of management control along with better trail location should eliminate this problem.

Exploration for minerals that would not impact resources or necessitate rehabilitation would be the only alternative to consider for wilderness areas.

Except for mining claims with a valid discovery by December 31, 1984, wilderness areas are withdrawn from mineral entry. However, exploration could be done by nonsurface disturbing means, but no new mining claims could be filed.

370/1080

Unfortunately, wilderness areas often include large stands of merchantable timber that will never be harvested.

Thank you for your comment. See response to 370/0634.

370/1142

Kings River Canyon above Rodgers Crossing should be designated as a wilderness area.

The disposition of this area has been resolved by an act of Congress in 1987. The area is now a Special Management Area and a Wild and Scenic River. See response to 370/0016.

370/1177

I recommend better access to streams and lakes, and hardening pathways to prominent areas near water's edge. It appears that handicapped individuals have been effectively excluded from wilderness areas due to regulations limiting the use of mechanical vehicles. If the Forest Service can propose a way to facilitate the movement of disabled people to a wilderness area, it would be appreciated.

There are regulations limiting the use of mechanical vehicles within wilderness areas, which limits handicapped individuals from experiencing these opportunities. The Forest Service does not have the authority to change this policy. However, we agree that disadvantaged, handicapped, and minority persons should have equal access to recreation experience (Plan 4 5 2.1 #3). What we have done at a project level is design facilities that meet these needs around the Edison and Florence Lake areas, which are very close to wilderness.

370/1266

Why not set marginal land aside for protection from road building and other developments to preserve it for future use if needed.

Very little, if any forest activities occur on "marginal" land. It is managed exactly as you infer. If, in the future, it becomes practical and environmentally sound to manage, we will re-analyze it.

370/1282

Both the Plan and DEIS cite overuse of wilderness areas (Plan pg 3-4, DEIS pg. 3-32) and project that demand will exceed capacity during the planning period. (MRVD 1982 220, MRVD 1st decade = 462.8, MRVD 5th decade = 617; DEIS pg 2-50): Wilderness demand will meet or exceed potential capacity of existing wilderness areas prior to the end of the planning period (Year 2035). Existing wilderness areas in ROS class of "primitive will reach capacity by 2025. Despite this the preferred alt. designates no more Wilderness, and the SPMN ROS category will be reduced under all alternatives. All FPA's and released areas should be designated Wilderness.

The DEIS and Plan show that projected wilderness demand will meet or exceed potential capacity of existing wilderness areas prior to the end of the planning period in 2035. The forest expects to mitigate this by implementing more user controls, limits on group size, length of stay within wilderness and increasing the PAOT/acre multiplier. User quotas will be established for entry points as necessary.

370/1319

I can't understand why the environmental groups demand more wilderness areas and less productive measures for the national forests. We have beautiful national parks in California that families may use and enjoy forever. But, only a small percentage of the population will use the national forest for wilderness use.

Thank you for your comment. See response to 370/1842.

370/1324

I believe the general public, which far outnumbers those special interests, wants to maintain the Forest in an undeveloped and natural state.

The 1984 California Wilderness Act, the 1987 Wild and Scenic River Act, and the 1987 Special Management Area Act, indicates that about 49% of the Forest will remain in the natural state.

370/1492

How can the basic facts of life, such as jobs, income, and taxes as they affect those citizens dependent on the forest, be relegated to secondary level benefits status, while esoteric benefits such as "visual quality in excess of ROS class needs" or "diversity objectives" or "natural and scientific areas" in

excess of the opportunities offered by over 500,000 acres of wilderness, are not only included as nonpriced benefits, but can also have considerable negative effects on the potential net value of the priced outputs

Congress feels that wilderness areas which have been set aside for these values are as important as jobs and taxes. The Forest Service is charged with the administration of wilderness within the Forest. The 527,938 acres of wilderness are for the people. See response to 370/0298.

We are seeing discrimination in the recreation management of the public lands through the designation of wilderness areas. These areas are primarily useful to the young, vigorous, and affluent. It is difficult or impossible to use for many of the elderly, infirmed or disabled, and the ordinary working man and his family

See responses to 370/1842 and 1177.

370/1520

There should be no additional recommendations for wilderness. Reduction of CAS inventoried lands and the resultant reduction in planned harvest levels until projected increases in growth are actually realized.

Logging and road building in designated wilderness is prohibited. Unroaded areas are available for harvest only after a complete interdisciplinary analysis (NEPA) which includes public involvement.

370/1528

I challenge your statement that limited use of large areas is due to a lack of interesting features. It isn't lack of beauty, but lack of trails that limit use in wilderness.

You are right, there is beauty in all wilderness areas and because of the lack of trails in some of these areas, use is limited. The wording, "there are large portions of wilderness which lack these attractive qualities and receive little or no recreation use," may be changed. This wording will be based on the fact that the Forest rates these lands as either distinctive, common, or minimal as related to the State of California's overall landscape variety class values.

370/1535

As for all amenities resources, the management direction for wilderness is brief, sketchy and superficial. The Plan/DEIS does a very vague job of projecting and analyzing wilderness demand. It also equates wilderness demand with direct wilderness use, ignoring completely the vicarious and indirect enjoyment of wilderness. We strongly recommend the entire Kings River Further Planning Area for wilderness. We recommend the Plan be changed to protect all "released" roadless areas so that in the future they can be considered for wilderness.

The disposition of the Kings River area was resolved in 1987 by an Act of Congress, designating this area as a Special Management Area. It will be managed similar to a wilderness. We agree the management S&Gs for wilderness is brief. However, the discussion in the DEIS is similar to the other resource use areas. Many of your specific concerns will be addressed when specific management and project level analysis plans are completed for the areas, as mandated by Congress.

370/1540

We recommend supporting the WSR designation for Merced River and its south fork. We concur also with your own recommendation that a power project be disallowed at the Hemlock Crossing of North Fork San Joaquin and shall urge representatives in Congress to support this position.

The California Wilderness Act of 1984, provided language which would allow potential hydroelectric development in this segment. However, the Forest recommended a "wild" designation. This would preclude any further hydroelectric development. If, however, Congress selects a designation other than "wild", then hydroelectric development could be permitted after an environmental analysis has been completed.

370/1541

I support wilderness protection for the Kings River Canyon, Merced Canyon area, Mt. Raymond, and Dinkey Creek roadless areas.

See responses to 375/0989, 360/1658 and 1647.

370/1581

It is interesting to note that the Forest has designated some areas as wilderness that are "least popular." This is a vague description and needs explanation, since these facts are relevant in consideration by reviewers as to how much roadless, primitive recreation, and wilderness is appropriate in the Forest

Our definition of "least popular" areas are those that are rarely visited because of limited access

We are very concerned that the Forest is intending to violate the California Wilderness Act of 1984 by proposing extensive roadless, primitive, administrative quasiwilderness and buffer zones adjacent to classified Wilderness Analysis Areas 46, 52 and 66, which stand out on the Alternative A map as distinct buffer zones

The Forest has no intention of violating the California Wilderness Act. The Preferred Alternative will recommend Analysis Areas 3 and 18 be used for low intensity recreation, wildlife, grazing, and watershed uses. Analysis Area 46 is now developed recreation, while Analysis Areas 48, 52 and 66 are dispersed recreation with no scheduled timber harvest

370/1619 & 1658

We're opposed to any further wilderness increases such as the Kings River Further Planning Area. More attention should be directed towards existing wilderness than adopting new wilderness areas.

The Preferred Alternative is recommending no more lands be set aside for wilderness. Those areas not designated as wilderness in the California Wilderness Act of 1984 are available for multiple uses. The Kings River Further Planning Area was designated as a Special Management Area by Congress in 1987. It will be managed similar to wilderness.

370/1620

I believe the primary emphasis should be placed on improvement of public use trails. Forests left in their natural state, streams and rivers left alone, and access roads, automobiles, and other mechanical devices kept to the minimum. The Forest Service will have to be the protectors of the forest and not business managers. Long term interests of the American public are more important than the short-term, profit-oriented plans that have been proposed.

It is difficult to leave a forest in a "natural state." The Preferred Alternative will, however, designate about 600,000 acres that will be preserved in some form of primitive or semiprimitive land status. Most of the nonwilderness areas will also have natural state appearance, as compared to urban appearances. See response to 370/1055.

370/1640

I endorse mass transit of the public to these areas. Mass transit would increase visitation of the Forest, reduce air pollution from cars, and generate additional revenue.

Mass transit within wilderness would be contrary to the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964. Access systems within the wilderness system will be shown on the recreation element (travel plans) within the LMP. A mass transit system, however, up to wilderness areas may be considered.

370/1654

Potential wilderness study areas should not be denigrated by the construction of logging needs until a final determination is made.

The potential wilderness areas for the Forest have all been designated by the passage of the California Wilderness Act of 1984. Those areas not designated as wilderness were made available for multiple uses other than wilderness and will not require further study.

370/1669

I recommend a new S&G. Establish a phone reservation system for areas with quotas. This would improve management of these and surrounding areas.

This is a good idea. The Plan will be implemented and kept moving through short term plans, such as project work plans. Since user quotas have recently been established for wilderness entry points, your suggestion would seem appropriate. A decision will be made concerning this suggestion at the project or field level.

370/1684

I oppose any hydroelectric development in any wilderness

The Preferred Alternative will achieve the results you recommend.

370/1690

I would like to see the areas east of Garlic Spur and Converse Mountain be wilderness, since there is so little in the Forest

The Garlic Spur and Converse Mountain areas are within the Kings River Special Management Area recently established by Congress. This area will be managed similarly to a wilderness area. The Forest now has about 41% of its lands allocated to wilderness, including this special management area.

370/1703

I object to excessive withdrawals of lands for specific single uses. About 41% of the Forest is already preserved in designated Wilderness. Must we also set aside more of the remaining CAS lands for other single or restricted uses?

The Forest has no single use lands. It is true that about 41% of the Forest is designated wilderness, but these lands are used for recreation, wildlife, watershed, and grazing. Those areas not designated as wilderness have been made available for multiple uses other than wilderness.

370/1706

There is too much take, take, take, and develop and not enough conserve, protect, and maintain for present and future generations.

Thank you for your comment. Your concern is one reason we are planning to conserve, protect, maintain, and manage our national resources for future generations.

370/1797

We request that the 4WD way to Spanish Lake be re-opened. There is no discussion of this situation in the Plan, but we believe the government owes us a little. We talk about increasing hiking trails and opportunities, but 4WD activities are not discussed. We recommend an alternative 4WD way from Spanish Lake Trail down Rodgers Ridge to Black Rock Station.

Your suggestion that 4WD routes that have been excluded from the wilderness areas should be brought together with 4WD routes throughout the remainder of the forest is being considered in the Preferred Alternative. The Plan suggests moderate increases in road and trail construction to facilitate opportunities for dispersed use. It also suggests designations of additional OHV routes in the area where cross-country travel was previously allowed. A future project plan will indicate where these designated trail opportunities will be. OHV travel will be restricted to these designated routes or areas.

370/1804

I support leaving the Devils Gulch roadless area alone. I believe that most of it would make a very significant wilderness to compliment the South Fork Merced wild river designation.

The disposition of the Devils Gulch roadless area has been resolved with the California Wilderness Act of 1984. It has not been designated a wilderness area but it will be managed as dispersed recreation - no timber harvest. This should complement the South Fork of the Merced Wild River designation as you suggest.

370/1811

The Devils Gulch, Dinkey Lakes, Ferguson Ridge, Mt. Raymond, Rancheria, San Joaquin B, Shuteye and Sycamore Spring Roadless should be designated primitive high country areas.

The disposition of the Devils Gulch, Mt. Raymond, Shuteye, and Sycamore Spring roadless areas, were resolved with the California Wilderness Act of 1984. These areas have been "released" to multiple use management by that Act. In the Preferred Alternative, Devils Gulch (Management Area 2), Dinkey Lakes (Analysis Areas 48, 62, and 66) and Mt. Raymond (Management Area 11) are now all Management Area 11 Dispersed Recreation, with no regulated timber harvest allowed except for catastrophic events. The former San Joaquin B roadless area is now part of Ansel Adams Wilderness. A portion of Rancheria roadless area (Analysis Area 62) went into Wilderness and the remainder (Analysis Area 61) went into General Forest. Sycamore Springs was "released" and became part of Management Area 4 and 5.

370/1812

I think your agency's proposal of zero wilderness acreage for the roadless areas in this Forest is grossly inadequate.

As a result of the California Wilderness Act of 1984, the Forest will manage approximately 600,000 acres in some form of primitive or semiprimitive land status. About 49% of the approximate 1.4 million acres will be devoted to roadless wilderness type areas

370/1817

The controversy about roadless areas did not disappear with the passage of the California Wilderness Act. A full range of Alternative for these areas, including full protection, can and should be considered. I believe that all the existing roadless areas, should remain roadless. The projected demand for the P and SPNM ROS classes far exceeds the supply.

A range of alternatives was considered for the roadless areas released by the California Wilderness Act of 1984. Roads for timber access will be allowed, but will be closed after logging to retain semiprimitive conditions in Analysis Areas 21, 23 and 58. It is true that dispersed recreational use capacities are in short supply in the SPNM and will not meet the projected demand at the end of the planning period.

In wilderness areas, small groups should be the rule, and horse travel should be discouraged.

It is desirable to have small groups within the wilderness. The Preferred Alternative will recommend continuing our policy of reducing heavy levels of wilderness visitor use by requiring some controls and limits on group size and length of stay. The use of horse travel is acceptable within wilderness areas, however, many of the equestrians are unaware of regulations in wilderness areas. Often they are a source of major conflict with backpackers along trails, around campsites, and in small meadows. Better communication with equestrians would eliminate some of these conflicts.

370/1819

The passage of the California Wilderness Act has been ignored by the Forest, because the Act eliminates a significant amount of suitable timber land. The Forest no longer has the luxury of trading away the remaining suitable land for nontimber uses. In fact, the Wilderness Act boundaries and the release language were designed to exclude thousands of acres from restrictive management. The Forest has devoted much of the released land area to dispersed nonmotorized recreation. Only 190,790 acres are managed for full timber yield, less than 20% of the forested land.

By law the Forest cannot ignore the California Wilderness Act. The 59% of lands within the Forest that have not been designated wilderness, were made available for multiple uses, other than wilderness. Lands outside the wilderness system that have been determined to be capable, available, and suitable for timber management reasons will be used accordingly.

370/1830

We have a large percent of the forest locked up I know, I grew up there. I romped around the lakes, across the plateaus, hiked around to the other side and came home on Road 395, and rode down San Joaquin River in an inner-tube That's the way it should be, and it still can be. The town is there because we made the lakes

A large percentage of the Forest is not "locked up." However, we suggest that 100% the Forest will have overview management prescriptions which will indicate what should be done to the resources now and in the future. Then every ten years, we will turn the key and re-examine to see what revisions are necessary and then make changes to the LMP, if they are needed

We're going to lock up the Forest a little at a time, not make a park out of it, or let the cows graze there or even mine it I guess we don't need minerals anymore. Where are we going to work? Where will we take our families camping? Where will we get the wood to make our homes?

Areas not designated wilderness were made available for multiple uses other than wilderness and can be used accordingly. About 51% of lands outside wilderness will have prescriptions which will allow the Forest to manage the resources according to the preferred alternative. See response to 1830.

370/1834

I have grown up in these mountains and I have observed the Wilderness areas, which, as a conservationist, I see as becoming a total disaster. It contributes to soil erosion (loss of top soil, which cannot be replaced) and destroys clean water by filling the streams with silt and other foreign matter

Thank you for your comment.

370/1839

In recent years the loudest and most demanding response has come from only a small part of the general public, the single issue groups or activists. These groups have successfully influenced the Forest Service's decision making. Through well-financed lobbying efforts, these environmentalists have locked away nearly 43% of this forest's multiple use land area.

It is true that the Forest now has a large land base allocated to wilderness and special management areas. However, these Congressional Acts have been influenced by the people of the United States for these wilderness and special management areas. The Forest Service's authority is limited to managing, planning, operating, and maintaining areas that have been designated by Congress.

370/1840

A lot of people like the wilderness. I wouldn't be so much against wilderness areas if they were for everyone. If you want to set it aside, do it, but don't let a few people use it and deny others. If you're going to set aside, set it aside and not let anyone use it I bet that wouldn't last very long.

See response to 370/1842

370/1842

Tell me, how does Wilderness area benefit any of us? What good does it do to close the land off so that nobody can use it?

Wilderness areas have been accepted by the American public as necessary areas to be preserved for our generation and generations to come. We are receiving heavy levels of wilderness visitor use. Some areas even require use controls. Benefits seem to go to about 7% of our population who use the areas. NEPA requires us to analyze all resources including wilderness areas.

We can't sit by and let them close our Forest lands off to us. We have supported that land for years. We ought to have the right to use it. It doesn't matter if it's for driving or camping. I don't care if you want to spend an hour, a day, or two weeks in the forest. You have that right.

You surely have the right to use all 1,308,600 acres of Forest-administered lands. Society has determined, however, that controls are necessary in urban areas and with rural, forested areas. The Preferred Alternative provides a management program reflecting a mix of activities, allows use and protection of forest resources, and fulfills legislative requirements. The conditions to use your federal forest lands are spelled out in these guidelines and laws.

370/1847

It was wise to create wilderness areas to preserve some of what is left of a pristine creation

The Preferred Alternative is suggesting that about 600,000 acres be preserved in some form of primitive or semiprimitive land status with management prescriptions to back this up. This is about 49% of the Forest.

373-ANSEL ADAMS

373/1667

Any diversion dam at Hemlock Crossing, deep within the Ansel Adams Wilderness, should not be allowed. No such precedent, violating our wilderness systems must occur.

Under the California Wilderness Act, a potential hydroelectric development project could be completed near Hemlock Crossing on North Fork San Joaquin River. This is a congressional act which the Forest has no authority to change. However, wild and scenic river designation takes precedence over the California Wilderness Act if Congress designates that segment as "wild" thus precluding any hydroelectric development. The Forest has recommended a "wild" designation for this segment in the Preferred Alternative.

374-DINKEY LAKES

374/1804

I am pleased that the fringe of the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness has been recommended for dispersed recreation management without timber harvest.

Thank you for your comment. The Preferred Alternative has been modified to dispersed recreation with no scheduled harvest.

374/1812, 1786, 1381 & 1667

There needs to be a substantial increase in the proposed wilderness in the Kings River Planning Area and all the "released" roadless areas, including Dinkey Lakes.

The Forest will make no additional recommendations for wilderness classification in the final LMP. The disposition of the Kings River has been resolved by an act of Congress, designating this area as a Special Management Area. See response to 370/1535 and 370/1492.

375-RELEASED ROADLESS AREAS

375/0283

Your plan for managing nonwilderness areas is very poor. These are a priceless scenic resource and are extremely important for Forest wildlife. Many areas provide a necessary buffer zone for designated wildlife areas. Place all the "released" areas in the semiprimitive, nonmotorized category. Include Devils Gulch, Dinkey Lakes, Ferguson Ridge, Mt. Raymond, Rancheria, San Joaquin B, Shuteye and Sycamore Spring.

See response to 375/0989.

375/0989

I feel strongly that the Forest Plan should have recommended wilderness status for the Dinkey Creek, San Joaquin B, and Rancheria roadless areas. Each has its own unique beauty which is not necessarily well represented in already designated wilderness areas.

The disposition of the Devils Gulch, Mt. Raymond, Shuteye, and Sycamore Spring roadless areas, were resolved with the California Wilderness Act of 1984. These areas have been "released" to multiple use management by that Act. However, in the Preferred Alternative, Devils Gulch (Management Area 2), Dinkey Lakes (Analysis Areas 48, 52 and 66) and Mt. Raymond (Management Area 11) are now all Management Area 11 Dispersed Recreation with no regulated timber harvest allowed except for catastrophic events. The former San Joaquin B roadless area is now part of Ansel Adams Wilderness. A portion of Rancheria roadless area (Analysis Area 62) went into Wilderness and the remainder (Analysis Area 61) went into General Forest. Sycamore Springs was "released" and became part of Management Area 4 and 5.

375/1056

I recommend Mt. Raymond be considered as wilderness.

The preferred alternative will show the Mt. Raymond area as Dispersed Recreation - no scheduled timber harvest. The South Fork Merced has been designated as a wild and scenic river by Congressional act and will apply to 1/4 mile on the Forest side of the river through the Mt. Raymond area. While this designation isn't legislated wilderness, management will be quite similar.

375/1371

I would like to see wilderness status for the Kings River and Mt. Raymond Roadless Areas.

See responses to 374/1812 & 375/1056

375/1461

Please protect our wilderness areas from extensive logging.

Timber harvesting is not allowed within wilderness areas. Wilderness vegetation will be managed in a more natural condition through the use of prescribed or natural fires.

375/1498

Our support is for the protection of the wilderness and WSR status.

Thank you for your support.

375/1533

In the Ferguson Ridge and Devils Gulch released areas, we support the management prescriptions of Alternative D, except for the exclusion of the Devils Peak botanical area, which should be included.

In the Preferred Alternative Ferguson Ridge and Devils Gulch are now in Management Area 11 which emphasizes semiprimitive recreation opportunities and no timber harvesting. The South Fork of the Merced River, which flows through the Devils Gulch area has been designated a wild and scenic river by Congressional Act, and will manage 1/4 mile on each side of the river accordingly.

For the remaining released areas, including San Joaquin B., Shuteye, Dinkey Lakes, Sycamore Springs, and Rancheria, we support the recommendations of Alternative D in all cases.

See response to 375/0989.

375/1538 & 1667

Please maintain all released roadless areas in a manner that will insure that their wilderness characteristics will stay for possible future wilderness designations.

The Preferred Alternative will indicate that the management of the released roadless areas will be determined on a case-by-case basis using the interdisciplinary process which includes public involvement. See response 375/0989.

375/1581

Mt. Raymond should not be zoned as roadless, primitive, or "no-timber harvest" prescription, since by the Forest's own admission, there is a tremendous surplus of little-used roadless, primitive land and by contrast, there is a growing demand for timber and dispersed recreation.

Analysis Area 18 (Mt. Raymond) management prescription will be primitive and semiprimitive recreation use. We do not have a surplus of little-used roadless areas. On the contrary, we estimate our dispersed capacity will not keep up with the demand within the Forest's ROS semiprimitive nonmotorized areas

375/1682

We believe that Appendix H, appropriately indicates the disposition of the released areas. We request that both the further planning area in the Forest and the released areas be analyzed in site-specific detail in terms of the consequences to the environment of nonwilderness management. We request that these LPNF comments along with our comments on Tahoe NF FMP DEIS be incorporated by reference in the record of Sierra National Forest's FMP DEIS.

The Kings River Further Planning Area has now been designated a Special Management Area by Congress See response to 370/0016. All management activities planned within these nonwilderness areas are subject to short term plans, such as project work plans and are subject to environmental analysis as required by NEPA. Those areas not designated as wilderness were made available for multiple uses other than wilderness and will not require further study except at this project work plan level

375/1715

Please manage the Mt. Raymond Roadless Area in a way that will preserve it's wilderness values.

See response to 375/1056

375/1732

We support the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club in its conservation alternative that transfers to the jurisdiction of Yosemite National Park administration of the Mt. Raymond roadless area on its south border.

Thank you for your comment We have adopted many of the ideas in the Conservation Alternative, however, transfer of Mt. Raymond to the National Park Service is not one of them. However, the area is to be managed as Dispersed Recreation - no scheduled timber harvest which will be similar to National Park management.

375/1737

I applaud your efforts in the Plan to maintain roadless areas. This is important since it keeps these areas eligible for future designation as wilderness.

Thank you for your support.

375/1787

Given that Mt Raymond is not likely to be made into a wilderness area or given to Yosemite National Park, I support a "dispersed recreation, no timber harvest" designation. I wish to voice strong opposition to the classification of the Iron and Star Lakes areas as "semiprivate motorized" on the "recreation opportunity" class objectives. Iron Lakes Road is shown incorrectly on the Forest Maps. The entire area should be classified "non-motorized" with the exception of existing 4WD roads.

The final LMP Preferred Alternative will show the entire Mt. Raymond areas as a wildlife and dispersed recreation emphasis area in a semiprimitive setting. There will be no regulated timber harvesting. South Fork Merced has been given W/S status by an act of Congress. We will re-analyze the Iron and Star Lakes area semiprimitive motorized ROS classification given to those areas.

375/1811

We appreciate that the Forest considers the management of "released" roadless areas to be an issue that needs to be addressed. This is the first forest plan in the region that has done so.

Specific guidelines of how forest plans manage the released roadless areas will be shown in the Preferred Alternative

380-WILDLIFE

380/0064

Alternative D is not beneficial due to its inability to protect the water quality, riparian corridors, soil productivity, wildlife, and fish habitat. Hydro projects and the lack of OHV enforcement will increase the impacts on the Forest and are not a benefit.

Both the National Forest Management Act and National Environmental Policy Act state the need to assess a range of alternatives in the DEIS. Alternative D (Low Budget) reflects a minimum level of management to meet the laws, rules, and regulations which govern the Forest Service, and was not selected for the reasons you listed

Alternative B reflects the poor effort now in place to enhance fish and wildlife. Chemical pest and vegetation management is not a benefit.

Alternative B reflects the current level of effort. The other alternatives are evaluated by comparing their levels of fish and wildlife enhancement efforts with the current situation. Regarding your comment on chemical treatment, please refer to the Plan and Supplemental FEIS on vegetation management, which provides a good analysis on the effect of herbicide use.

380/0090

I feel that protecting breeding areas and areas where animals are under harsh conditions is a great idea.

Thank you for your support.

380/0091

I really liked the standard and guideline about protecting the nests and dens of all sensitive species until the young are gone.

Thank you for your support.

380/0101

You say you are going to protect the nests and dens of young animals. But how are you going to know when the babies are going to fly away? Why not protect the adults too?

The Plan specifies protection of "...nests and dens of all sensitive species until the young are gone." Forest biologists will monitor the nests and dens and determine when the young, as well as adults have left. Guidelines will also be included in the environmental assessment document for individual projects.

380/0109

I agreed with most sections of the Standard and Guidelines. They all gave me the impression that they were made to help manage the environment and control wildlife population. Sections most confusing were those in Timber. They would not help wildlife and are senseless. Many sections I didn't understand; mostly near #'s 150 and 200. The way I understood them, they would probably harm the wildlife community.

S&Gs were developed to help manage the Forest and to provide for the needs of several natural resources. The S&Gs for timber were developed to help us manage timber resources in coordination with other resource values and are not intended to harm wildlife resources. S&Gs in the Forest Plan are part of the Preferred Alternative (Alternative A), assessed in the DEIS. It reflects the effort of the Forest to provide a good balance of uses, subject to the needs of the public, while protecting wildlife resources

380/0110

Having a program about animals is a clever thing to do. It helps to teach the general public about different species and their habitats.

Thank you for your comment

380/0118

I agree with Standard and Guideline 35. We should protect all nests and dens from harm or disturbance. #232 seems very reasonable because if there are too many people in a dispersed area, it could be harmful to the forests. I disagree with #2, because I don't think the year 2010 will be soon enough to rehabilitate trails. Many harmful things could happen before that date.

Thank you for your support. See response to 190/0137 regarding trail construction.

380/0127

I feel it is very important to give some emphasis to animals have plans that protect nests and dens of sensitive animals, provide some owl spots, and also protect Bald Eagle areas I feel you have given emphasis to more than animals. For instance, it's easier for some handicapped and disabled people to go on trails. Putting up visitor stations in the parks, is another example.

Thank you for your support.

380/0142

I am in total agreement with minimizing management activity in deer population centers during July. But, I think it would be even better if it was year round. I think that our modern ways have intruded too much in wildlife areas already Letting some insects and disease run their natural course unless unacceptable loss will occur, is OK But, if trees are diseased by organisms, we should help them by spraying chemicals

The intent of establishing deer population centers is to reduce impacts to deer during the fawning season. The month of July is the peak fawning period during which forage and cover conditions are optimum for fawn production and survival.

Currently, use of herbicides is restricted within the Region, and is limited to selected progeny and provenance test sites.

380/0164

I agree with Standard and Guideline #32, except that the improvements stated need to be made more than "slightly".

We agree and have deleted the word "slightly" from the S&G.

380/0288

Alternatives H-MKT & C-RPA protect fish, wildlife habitat, and provide for quality wildlife, while increasing water availability and increasing forage is most beneficial to all concerned including the ecological groups.

The Forest selected Alternative A as the Preferred Alternative for the reasons you listed. It provides the best mix of resource needs for all forest users

380/0387

We are unable to endorse your preferred alternative because of specific wildlife regulations such as 6x12 ft seedling spacing in deer population areas and 200 ft riparian zones on either side of Cow and Portuguese Creeks seems excessive. The former would require early pre-commercial thinning to maintain tree vigor, while the latter appears to go far beyond that necessary for protection of fish species

This was one of many compromises each resource had to make during the planning process. The 6x12 ft. spacing is only in the deer holding areas designated in the Draft Plan S&G 54. This spacing allows shrubs and herbaceous forage to develop for wildlife use. The 200 foot riparian zone on Portuguese and Cow Creek is for protection of Lahontan cutthroat trout, a threatened fish species.

380/0420

My concern is wildlife and their habitats. A thorough study should be done to ensure their protection

Refer to Appendix B of the Plan for a list of research needs Also, Chapter 5 of the Plan lists all wildlife monitoring which the Forest will implement as funds become available, after Plan approval.

380/0464

Plan maps for wildlife do not show location of Spotted owl or Goshawk territories on the Forest nor do they show potential peregrine falcon nesting sites. We hope this information will be included in the final plan maps.

Regional direction mandates that disclosure of the location of Peregrine falcon nest sites to the general public would place the chicks in greater jeopardy from falconry or sale for profit. At this time, there is no inventory of Goshawk territories, however, there is an established matrix of Spotted owl Habitat Areas (SOHAs) which we are currently surveying for verification of nesting activity. Further information is available for review in the Forest Supervisor's Office.

380/0652

The wildlife surely can adopt to this change due to the fact that the forests will not be made into barren deserts.

Various species of wildlife need a variety of habitat. The Preferred Alternative provides this variety.

380/1125

I am in favor of your wildlife proposal, but I question getting too worried about the Oakhurst deer herd. We quit using the Hugh Ryan Canyon area for cattle grazing as the Fish and Game thought this would be a good wintering spot for deer. What has been done on this?

The current Term Grazing Permit has been amended to reflect changes agreed to between the Forest Service and the grazing permittee, whereby the area west of Highway 41 would not be grazed, but be reserved for wildlife needs

380/1143

As you know, the Forest is home for many birds and other animals. They need our protection as much as we need the beauty of nature. I support the Conservation Alternative.

Thank you for your comment. The Conservation Alternative was considered and many of its features included in the Preferred Alternative.

380/1178

Any development plans MUST include provisions that will insure that fish-wildlife habitat and sensitive plant resources will be maintained at pre-project levels. The construction of water retention ponds for use by cattle and wildlife should be an annual goal of the plan.

Please refer to S&G 36 and 64 in the Draft Plan. Both should answer your questions.

380/1242

I feel that many wild animals, birds and insects that are not considered rare animals have few persons to speak up for their natural inherent rights to exist and prosper in the forest lands.

See response to 380/1282

380/1282

There is no Wildlife Alternative; in fact, all alternatives plan for the decline of wildlife species. The Forest Service seems to know little and care less about the species it should be protecting. Habitat of sensitive species is declining and will continue to decline under all alternatives, systematically planning for the decimation of wildlife. Rational wildlife planning cannot take place without an adequate information base. Wildlife and habitat inventories should be given highest priority, and trapping should be banned throughout the Forest.

The Forest employs both wildlife and fisheries biologists who are responsible for collecting wildlife information and making recommendations on various projects to enhance and protect wildlife habitat. Habitat for certain species, such as the Goshawk and Spotted owl, will decline; however, sufficient habitat will be managed to maintain viability of all species as required by the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

Your comment regarding trapping is under the jurisdiction of the California Dept. of Fish & Game, and is outside the scope of the Plan.

380/1362

The Alternative A theme summary greatly understates the impacts of your alternative on forest wildlife. How can wildlife habitats "be maintained near current levels" given the impacts clearly described in the rest of your alternative description. To state that wildlife will remain near current levels in spite of the impacts is a clear deception of the large segment of interested public that simply does not have the time or expertise to wade through your exceptionally complex documents.

We agree with your correction for Alternative A regarding the statement that wildlife habitats will "be maintained near current levels". The Forest is projecting some loss of wildlife habitat, particularly for the Spotted owl and Goshawk, depicted in Table 2.05. However, viable population levels will be maintained for all species, which is mandated by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. A change in the text for Alternative A will be made.

The description of the environment to be created greatly underplays the impact. You state that timberland oaks, snags and down logs will only "decline slightly" or "undergo small reductions." Oaks, snags, and down logs will, in fact, be removed over tens of thousands of acres of forestland under the proposed clear-cut and fuelwood use philosophy. The partial retention of these key wildlife habitats on unharvested forestlands will do nothing to reduce the wildlife losses accruing on the many harvested clearcuts.

Please refer to the S&Gs in the Plan which pertain to the listed special habitat components. As projects are planned, Forest Service Biologists will use these standards to assess and develop appropriate mitigation measures. For example, creation and protection of snags and protection of all mast producing oak have been used to mitigate the loss of these resources.

Alternative C may in fact meet RPA objectives for timber and range production, but would clearly fail to meet the RPA requirements for mule deer and cavity-nesting bird habitat production, and should therefore be rejected.

As stated in the DEIS, the Preferred Alternative is A. However, Alternative C properly presents the Forest contribution to meeting the RPA targets.

How did the Forest arrive at the idea of creating a new Stage 4C+ and then renaming it "old growth forest?" What happened to Stage 4B and 4C during habitat analysis? This departure from terminology used in all recent pertinent wildlife literature as well as by other Sierran forests has confused and compromised your discussion of proposed timber management and its impact on this key wildlife habitat. Consider your entire analysis of old-growth impacts flawed and subject to challenge.

Current Regional direction specifies the successional stages and defines the terminology, and the stages which the Forest will maintain. Both 4B and 4C are stages which the Forest included in the DEIS and Forest Plan. See Chapter 3 of DEIS for a complete explanation of the diversity standards.

Type conversions of brush to grass can be very damaging to wildlife habitat if not done in the proper manner. Conversions should be laid out so that at least 50% of the area will be retained in escape and thermal cover in blocks of 40 acres or larger and distributed to benefit wildlife. Openings should be no wider than 10 chains, perimeters designed with irregular edges, and retention areas selected to favor wildlife. A forest biologist (not a range conservationist) should design the layout of treatment and retention areas.

Brush type conversions will not be conducted during this planning period. While there are 80,000 acres of chaparral lands in the Forest, approximately 25% are suitable to receive some brush manipulation treatments to: 1) break up homogeneous brush fields, 2) reduce heavy fuels build-up, 3) provide early to mid-seral stage wildlife habitat, 4) provide annual grass range forage and 5) provide recreation access. However, before any brush treatment is implemented, an environmental analysis will be completed to determine mitigation of impacts to other resources.

I could find no assessment of potential impacts to reptiles and amphibians in your DEIS, but I assume one was made since they are vertebrate groups and the Forest is mandated to manage at viable population levels. Please include a synopsis of your assessment in the FEIS.

A separate analysis was not done on reptiles and amphibians. However, as you stated, the dead & down standard provides habitat for reptiles and amphibians. In addition, riparian standard and guidelines should provide additional habitat for viable populations of these species.

380/1362 & 1682

I find no discussion in the DEIS pertaining to specific planning for identified "Management Indicator Species" required by NFMA regulations (Section 219.19).

"Management Indicator Species" are listed in the FEIS under the term "Species of Special Interest."

Your Standards and Guidelines for snags and down logs are inadequate. All soft snags must be retained in addition to the requirements of #44a & 44b. These snags must be distributed throughout the harvest areas and not stacked into noncommercial portions of the compartment as indicated by #44h. All snags should be retained in the vicinity of streams and meadows, and should not count towards the required averages. Down logs should not count towards the average retention level as well. An additional standard should be added that provides that woody debris be retained on at least 20% of all timber harvest areas.

Snags and dead and down logs are important components of the Forest habitat. Please refer to our response 380/1682 for the reasons for our snag retention standards

380/1495

The preservation of wildlife habitat and forest ecosystems are necessary for the welfare of our planet. Ecologists warn us about the unprecedented rate of species extinction. Scientists warn us about the devastating ramifications of the greenhouse effect. Preservation of the forest ecosystem

is a necessary measure to avoid such disaster....The way we manage the Forest has global implications.

Thank you for your comment

380/1550

As an organization with strong wildlife interests, we are particularly concerned with your timber proposals. Habitat is crucial to wildlife and we fear that the preferred alternative allows for timber yields which will result--through clearcutting, road building, etc. in an unacceptable loss of habitat. Many species, for example, the Spotted owl, require old growth forest Will there be sufficient old growth forest left in future years?

Although the Plan proposes to harvest some late seral stage stands (oldgrowth), there are many areas on the Forest which will be maintained for late seral stage associated species. These areas are: Riparian, 29 Spotted owl Habitat Areas, Wilderness, Research Natural Areas, and Special Interest Areas In addition, 5% of each vegetation type and seral stage, in combination, will be maintained across the planning area.

380/1533

If funding for such mitigation work and improvement projects is not obtained, wildlife and fisheries resources will be more affected than the Plan implies.

We agree that if funding for mitigation and improvement projects is not obtained that wildlife and fisheries would be more affected than the Plan implies. However, monitoring would show this trend and a plan revision would be required. Either outputs would be reduced, mitigation and improvement projects funded, or both if condition warranted.

380/1669

How, as mentioned in the Plan, will snags managed at densities below current levels preserve primary cavity nesting birds near current densities

The present distribution of snags on the Forest is uneven. Some timber compartments are below the recommended density, while others have a snag density which exceeds the standard. As the Plan is implemented, snag density will become more even in its distribution. It is anticipated that this change in redistribution of snags will maintain the population of primary cavity nesting birds near current densities.

I support the program to identify target fish and wildlife species and long term habitat objectives.

Thank you for your support.

Rotation ages should be described in terms of average dbh instead of years. We feel there may be a contradiction between the rotation ages and the equally binding guideline 44 pg.4-23 which requires 1.5 snags per acre in the 15-24" class and 0.5 snags per acre in the 25" or greater age class. It is misleading to suggest the snag management guideline will be followed everywhere. We feel the DEIS does not adequately discuss these concerns

S&G 44 in the Draft Plan states that within each timber planning compartment, "maintain an average of 1.5 trees/acre . " 1.5 snags/acre will not be managed on each acre Special management areas such as Spotted owl Habitat Areas, riparian, geological areas, archaeological areas, will partially provide snags of the required size class. Other areas, such as remote, steep, and rugged forested areas will provide additional snags of the required size class.

I need some clarification with S&G #72, pg. 4-26 of the Plan

S&G #72 in the Draft Plan means that other resource values, such as identified wildlife habitat areas, will be considered when administering livestock grazing permits in accord with approved allotment management plans. If conflicts arise, they should be resolved to benefit wildlife habitats.

Wildlife, fish and deer herd management is based on the 1982 estimate. The final plan should be based on the most recent population estimate.

The 1982 base year is used for comparison of alternatives. This base year was used on all forests in California for all resources including fish and wildlife.

The current techniques available for bird specie inventory are at best moderately precise and accurate.. not high.

The Forest is presently working with the Pacific Southwest Experiment Statton on an avian inventory technique. We will collect baseline information for the first five years after Plan implementation, and compare the changes in population thereafter.

Which are the Meadow edge species.

Please refer to the publication, titled, California Wildlife and Their Habitats: Western Sierra Nevada, PSW Gen. Tech Rept. 37. Refer to the special habitat requirements for each species in the species/habitat matrix. Meadow edges are an important area for deer during the fawning period, and nesting by Great Gray owls.

380/1682

Baseline biological data essential to a valid Forest Plan and to a determination of species status, is lacking. The Forest has not undertaken a Goshawk inventory and the Spotted owl census is incomplete (DEIS pg 3-45). The validity of Forest statements and plans on these species is questionable. You need a complete list of studies, completion dates, costs of studies, literature review of available research and studies underway or completed in other Forests.

Please refer to Chapter 5 and Appendices A and B in the Forest Plan for a list of monitoring and research needs. Population estimates were based on both field and literature information. We are presently participating in a Regional monitoring program to determine long term trends in the Spotted owl population. While the Goshawk inventory is incomplete, the Forest will be establishing one Goshawk territory per 18 square miles of suitable habitat.

Existing standing snags are often felled to prevent fire, to produce fuel wood, to reduce safety hazards, or to control undesirable forest insects. Removal of snags for those purposes may produce critical habitat losses for snag-dependent species if corrective measures are not taken. Attached are follow-up questions from an article. Their findings indicate the need for more than two snags per acre.

S&G has been strengthened to ensure dead trees will not be felled in snag deficient areas.

The questions you refer to in the Raphael and White paper, titled, "Use of Snags by Cavity Nesting Birds in the Sierra Nevada", were directed toward the academic community. The Forest Service also maintains its own research branch through the Pacific Southwest Experiment Station. Please refer to Appendix B of the Plan. Research needs number seven and nine may answer some of the questions posed by Raphael and White. Regarding your comment on the need for more than two snags/acre, the Plan refers to maintaining two hard snags/acre for replacement. As stated in Raphael and White's paper they were using potential maximum populations, and agreed with management objectives outlined in Thomas et al. publication, Wildlife Habitat in Managed Forests in the Blue Mountains, which the Forest used as a guide in developing its snag standards.

We propose a Wildlife/Recreation alternative, on the premise that wildlife and habitat, their mutual health, welfare, and quality, are the primary determinant and standard bearers of the quality of both the Forest and the recreation experience. What is good for wildlife and habitat in their own right, is good for recreation.

We have tried to show a reasonable range of alternatives in the DEIS. Two of the six alternatives, (A & E) contain an emphasis on recreation and wildlife.

You need to include statewide figures on illegal deer hunting by counties and the extent of poaching in the Forest

The listed "needed information" is more appropriate in each of the deer herd management plans. All the information listed is provided by the California Department of Fish and Game. We will continue our close cooperation with the Department in managing wildlife populations.

380/1684

In my support of wildlife and fish, I tend to lean towards Alternative E, but Alternative A would be my second choice

Thank you for your comment.

380/1702

Fish and Wildlife habitat projects could be limited to those funded from timber sale revenues or those needed to maintain threatened and endangered species.

Annually, several fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects are funded using the funds collected under the Knutson/Vandenburg Act (KV). These projects would also include any project planned to enhance habitat for officially listed threatened or endangered fish and wildlife species. Other sources of funding are provided by the State through cooperative funds and Sikes Act monies appropriated through Congress. Timber harvest in the Preferred Alternative is not limited by wildlife habitat improvement projects financed from funds other than timber revenues or for threatened and endangered species. Preserving some existing habitat does result in a decrease in timber harvest.

380/1858

An increase in timber harvest is needed over and above that proposed in Alternative A to enhance wildlife diversity. Greater amounts of regeneration cutting, over 5,000 acres per year, will give a greater distribution of age classes.

Harvest levels are based not only on meeting wildlife diversity goals, but also visual quality objectives and watershed protection.

381-HUNTING

381/0140

My only comment is that you should limit the number of game being killed.

This comment is outside the scope of the Plan. California Fish and Game Commission sets the seasons and bag limits for game animals

381/1797

Many of our local members use the Forest for hunting and fishing opportunities and are concerned about this subject. We reason that deer populations are down due to more mountain lions, hoof rot, and blue-tongue diseases and far less from OHV effects in their habitat. We suspect cattle transmit the aforementioned diseases to deer and grazing permittee's livestock should be inspected and diseased livestock controlled.

It has not been documented that cattle permitted to graze in the Forest transmit hoof rot or blue-tongue to deer. Blue-tongue disease is transmitted by gnats not by cattle. Good livestockmen generally have their cattle herds periodically inspected and treated for infectious diseases which could jeopardize their ranching operations and their livelihood.

381/1858

An increased timber harvest (more than that which is proposed in the Plan) is needed, because increased timber yields are directly proportional to the amount of cattle and big game habitat available for a stable cattle industry and sportsmen benefit

Thank you for your comment.

382-FISHING

382/0135

You should not water roads for dust abatement that are near fishery streams. These streams must be protected.

The Forest Service conducts dust abatement, 1) to reduce visibility safety hazards on back country dirt roads and 2) to retain the fine material component of the road surface. We have identified that greatest risk of potential impact to fisheries occurs at water drafting sites. See Sec. 4.5.2.5 of the Plan for management direction regarding dust abatement and water drafting

382/0464

The potential impact to fisheries from chaparral treatment, timber harvest and grazing under the preferred alternative is low. This is true only if these activities are properly controlled. Given past experience, this should not be taken for granted

Management S&Gs, FEIS Sec 2.5.3.2 and in the Final Plan Sec. 4.5, were developed specifically to reduce potential impacts to the various resources on the Forest. These S&Gs, in conjunction with applications of Best Management Practices and appropriate mitigation measures, are expected to prevent or minimize potential impacts to the fisheries resource.

382/1125

Grizzly Creek is a very good trout stream that need not be inundated with more logging and access roads. General forest classification is not in the best interest of this area.

Based on our criteria for defining general forest classification, Grizzly Creek drainage has been designated as such. Management standards and guidelines displayed in the EIS and the Plan were developed to reduce potential impacts to the various resources on the Forest from management activities. These S&Gs, in conjunction with applications of Best Management Practices and appropriate mitigation measures, are expected to prevent or minimize potential impacts to the fisheries resource

382/1178

We feel that sufficient consideration wasn't given to fisheries. The Lahontan Trout protection and overdrafting of streams were covered, but other habitat maintenance or enhancement seems to be left to coordination with other management practices. Fishery habitat enhancement goals should be included in the plan

See response to 382/0464. In Chapter 4.0 of the Plan you will find a description of our intent to complete annual fishery habitat improvements throughout the forest. Aside from using project management and KV dollars, the Forest actively pursues money from outside funding sources to complete fishery habitat improvements.

382/1231

The CSPA recommends total mitigation for all fishery resources lost or destroyed by existing hydroelectric projects. Forest Service should require adequate streamflows which will maintain the pre-project fishery (all life-stages) at all times. Forest Service should monitor and enforce minimum

streamflow requirements and report violation of the minimum streamflow requirements to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

See Sec. 4.3 8 and 4.5.2.5 of the Plan which describe our fisheries management objectives for hydroelectric power projects. In our 4e comments to the FERC, we specify monitoring and mitigation for each hydroelectric power project proposed on the forest, including release flow monitoring. The Forest Service works in conjunction with the California Department of Fish and Game in reviewing streamflow records provided to us by the project licensee. Violations are reported to the FERC. In cases of non-compliance, it is the FERC's responsibility to enforce the terms of the project license.

We recommend the existing wild trout stock be maintained and enhanced by the Forest service in all decisions pertaining to the management of watershed on the Forest. This would be reasonable and in the public interest.

Currently, we have two identified "Wild Trout" stream segments-the upper Kings River and a portion of the South Fork Merced River. These rivers are designated and managed as wild trout fisheries by the California Department of Fish and Game as a tool to provide a specific fishing opportunity to anglers visiting the area. Forest Service management objectives within these watersheds are described in the Plan. See response to 382/0464

The proposals to establish reservoirs and introduce warm water species at elevations will not only change stream water levels, but also cause biological impacts to riparian systems upstream from the reservoir. Warm water species will invade upstream riparian areas in summer, and decrease the native cold water species diversity

See response to 382/1520.

382/1520

CalTrout is concerned that warm water fishing is being offered as a substitute for loss of cold water fish habitat due to hydroelectric power projects. Proposals to increase fish output by creating warm water reservoirs are not an acceptable substitute for loss of colder water fishery.

Your concern about loss of coldwater fisheries due to hydroelectric power development is well taken. By the nature of the activity, hydroelectric power projects with storage capacity will cause replacement of a coldwater stream fishery with either a two-story (coldwater/warmwater) reservoir fishery or, a coldwater reservoir fishery due to the inundation of habitat behind the impoundments. The Forest Service does not actively recruit hydroelectric power projects. However, as a multiple-use agency, it is our responsibility to openly coordinate with proponents of hydroelectric power projects to enable them to pursue feasibility investigations and assist in development of viable projects. Coordination with proponent and various federal and state agencies allows for identification of appropriate resource studies, resource protection and management, and mitigation for resources impacted. Although the resulting reservoir fisheries provide a diversified fishing experience and, often, an increased fish output, this effect is a by-product of the project and not a Forest fisheries management goal in and of itself.

382/1520 & 1716

The plan should include a discussion of the responsibility mandated by *Escondido v. La Jolla*. The Plan should identify existing hydroelectric power projects in which adequate instream flows have not been provided, and set forth objectives for correcting past errors. Plan should also indicate a commitment to requiring suitable flows below any new projects.

*The responsibility mandated by *Escondido v. La Jolla*, more commonly known as the *Escondido Decision*, granted the Forest Service the ability to submit to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission specific conditions which FERC is then required to place into the license. The *Escondido Decision* occurred in 1984 and has been totally incorporated into the Forest Service Hydroelectric Handbook, on which our Appendix N is based. The Forest Plan describes fisheries management objectives for hydroelectric power projects in Sec 4.3 8 and S&Gs in Sec. 4.5.2.5. On a case-by-case basis, proposed hydroelectric power projects are analyzed in close coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game, and managed to meet our Forest objectives.*

382/1520 & 1682

The Plan does not list any trout or other fish species as Management Indicator Species (MIS). We recommend that all trout species be designated as MIS.

Please see Sec 3.5.5.3 of our FEIS, that describes the fish Species of Special Interest, or MIS as Lahontan cutthroat trout, Paiute cutthroat trout, and rainbow trout. Riverine habitats on the Forest will be monitored using a resident trout. Rainbow trout is listed individually only because of its wide distribution throughout the Forest. The monitoring concept will, however, result in various resident trout species being monitored at the same time

We are very pleased with the proposed management of the Fishery Resource.

Thank you for your support.

382/1528

In the Fishery Resource Sec. 3.7 of the Plan, I note that only 30% of high and medium quality stream waters lie outside wilderness. This raises questions about past management practices and generates real concerns about what impact more intense timber harvesting and road building may have on fish habitat quality.

A rating of high, medium, or low quality for fish habitat should in no way imply that the condition is solely the result of past forest management. Forest streams exhibit a variety of different geomorphological characteristics that basically define what type of fish habitat to expect in an area. Stream channel stability, summer flows, and availability of quality fish habitat components such as pools, riffles, and spawning gravels, all go into developing the rating. Aside from defining the current habitat quality on the forest, the rating system also helps us identify habitat improvement projects for medium or low quality stream segments.

382/1669

We strongly support the Forestwide program to identify target fish, and wildlife species and long-term habitat objectives as detailed in Forest S&G 50.

Thank you for your supportive comments about our fishery management direction.

Some effort should be made to describe the scope and goals of the direct habitat improvement program.

Thank you for pointing out the need for defining our program goals. We have incorporated this information in the Final Plan

The monitoring program described in the Plan is very good. However, it is lacking in detail. Cutthroat trout: are the critical habitat components based on a model of cutthroat trout habitat requirements or the Regional stream survey forms? Rainbow trout: We recommend some measure of growth or condition as well as animal numbers

Cutthroat trout habitat monitoring will be conducted utilizing the R-5 stream survey techniques. Important habitat components, as described in the species recovery plan, will be characterized for each of the two streams by a fishery biologist during the first year of monitoring. These attributes will be the focus of subsequent monitoring to determine if changes are occurring to the habitat. We plan to incorporate a measure of growth and condition in our resident trout monitoring program.

382/1777

Our primary concerns, in general, are the possible or probable impacts to water quality, streamflow, aquatic habitat, and resulting fish populations.

See response to 382/0464, 333/1520 and 0307.

383/0165

I agree with S&G 45. I think providing Spotted owl territories is a good idea. If an owl was hurt, you could release it to this area and be able to keep an eye on it.

Thank you for your support.

383/0166

I agree that you should provide Spotted owl territories outside of wilderness. I agree with S&G 32 because the species will live in a better environment and it will help the endangered species so they won't die out. I disagree with #11.

Thank you for your comments

383/0454

I believe that there is enough timberland set aside for the Spotted owl project.

Thank you for your comment

383/0479

The Forest Service's Plan restricts timber usage by setting aside thousands of acres for the Spotted owl and deferring land for visual concerns. The Spotted owl is adaptable and will continue to survive in harvested land. Adjacent park and wilderness areas provide all the beauty and aesthetic values one could want from forested areas. It makes sense to allow timber industry to meet its goals on land provided for timber management.

See responses to 383/0545 & 1858.

383/0540

Spotted owl requires old growth (mostly Douglas Fir) as do other wild creatures in the ecological chain. Your plan places too much emphasis on clearcutting or regeneration harvest. The Forest needs an economist to decide when to harvest timber. Timber harvest should provide cash flow to the Government/Forest. Abnormal practice of lumber going to foreign governments is a loss, when our balance of payments is so negative.

Concerning the owls, see response 383/0545. With regard to clearcutting, see response 311/1034. The Forest Service is required to provide an even flow of timber for a variety of reasons, including community and market stability. By law unprocessed National Forest timber cannot be sold to foreign countries because, 1) balance of payments and 2) helps to stabilize prices (reduce inflation).

383/0545 & 1808

Why isn't the wilderness area of 500,000 acres enough for owls? That is 40% of the forest! Why the additional 15,000 acres for 18 pairs of owls? How can we spend 15 million dollars of the taxpayers' money on research when the money would be better spent for jobs, education, roads and senior citizens?

The Forest Service is directed by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to identify sensitive fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats to prevent them from becoming Federally listed as threatened or endangered. Based on current information on habitat requirements for the Spotted owl, the majority of the land base in Wilderness is unsuitable for owls. Spotted owls are not known to nest above 8,000 feet, while most wilderness areas are above this elevation. We currently have established an approved matrix of Spotted Owl Habitat Areas (SOHAs), which is part of a SOHA Network which extends from the state of Washington to California. SOHAs provide for 1,000 acres of suitable habitat at all times and 650 acres of replacement habitat.

This matrix or network will ensure the viability of Spotted owls over a broad area over time. The matrix pattern is intended to allow offspring from one SOHA to disperse to adjacent SOHAs which may be vacant, due to severe mortality factors, thereby assuring a viable network through time.

Another reason for the matrix pattern is to reduce loss of suitable habitat from catastrophic changes (ie. fire, insects, and disease).

There are three prescriptions for management of SOHAs. These are: no-scheduled harvest, even-aged, and uneven-aged harvest. The no-scheduled timber harvest would not allow timber cutting other than for minor silvicultural treatments to enhance the habitat for Spotted owls. It is anticipated that in most cases, the timber stands in the network SOHAs will be left to naturally rotate through time. Even-age harvest entails a limited amount of clearcut to manage the stand, but the SOHA area is increased to 2,650 acres to permit this strategy. Uneven-age harvest involves selective logging in a SOHA. This strategy changes or enlarges the SOHA area to 2,000 acres. Management plans written for SOHAs after the DEIS recommend the no-scheduled harvest management strategy.

The first article deals with the Forest's plan to be conservative for 10 years on setting aside forest lands for the Spotted owl. I don't consider 10 years to be conservative! Also stated in this article was that this decision was the will of the people. I have attended almost every open hearing in the area and 98% of the people who spoke at these meetings are against taking more forest lands from the timber industry.

See above response.

383/0585

I would like to ask what land areas are for the owl? The old growth timber in unloggable areas should be looked at

The Sierra National Forest has established 29 SOHAs, five of which are in Wilderness. See response to 383/0545.

383/1002

Your discussion of Spotted owls is confusing. Nowhere can we find references to the establishment of a viable population level. You acknowledge an incomplete census, out of an estimated population of 120-130 pairs. Every Alternative projects populations far in excess of those that would result from the establishment of your SOMT's. This raises the question as to the need for SOMT's at all. This becomes all the more valid in view of your past timber harvest practices and the conclusion that without formal recognition of Spotted owl requirements, the population has not been reduced to sensitive levels.

Viable population level for the Spotted owl is based on the most current research information, and is established by the Regional Office. The 120-130 pairs are based on surveys and literature which were available on the Forest in 1982, and used for comparison purposes among alternatives. Current direction requires the Forest to identify Minimum Management Requirement (MMR's) for the Spotted owl which is 29 pairs for the Sierra National Forest. Spotted owls located on other allocated land outside the established network also add to species viability. The network ensures habitat is well-distributed, throughout the species range on the Forest, for interaction of reproductive pairs.

Spotted owls have not suffered from the past 134 years of timber management on the Forest. What evidence points to your conclusion that they will start to suffer now?

See response to 383/0545.

Plan pg.3-7 calls for 13 territories in the commercial forest zone in contrast to the DEIS which calls for 12 as minimums. What reasons led to your choice of those numbers. What is the viable population for the Forest as a whole? You seem to have a population numbering 7 to 8 times that needed for viability. Given that situation and the past history of management, designation of the Spotted owl as "sensitive" seems unjustified.

See response to 383/0545 and 383/1002.

The position taken by some environmentalists that the Forest Service should preserve a margin for error by adopting Spotted owl MMR's that are more stringent than those currently under consideration is completely misguided. On the contrary, the Forest Service should follow the approach described in Deputy Asst. Sec. McCleery's March 8, 1985 decision on the Spotted owl MMR's in the Pacific Northwest Regional Guide--i.e., set the MMR's at a level that *minimizes* the sacrifice of other resources while conducting a targeted program of research and monitoring that will enable the Forest Service to change course if those MMR's prove to be insufficient. Additional research and monitoring is needed.

See response to 383/0545.

383/1018

I do not believe that cutting back on board feet that can be taken out of the Forest is the answer. I feel that the market plan is the best for all concerned. I know that the Spotted owl thing is not the main issue, but before it gets out of hand, we should take a second look. Any time we allow an endangered owl, fish, or animal of any kind to come before putting food in our children's bellies, it's wrong, and I suggest the Market Plan.

See response to 383/0545.

383/1192

Increased timber harvest requires; old growth forest set aside for Spotted owl pairs, slight reduction in visual quality along Mammoth Pool and McKinley Grove roads; more intense management in high recreation areas and riparian zones, reduced crown closure in mixed conifer.

Thank you for your comment. Your input was considered in making land use decisions for the FEIS and Forest Plan.

383/1213

I think we need to protect owls at all costs.

Thank you for your comment.

383/1298

There are hundreds of acres of forest that can never be logged. It is inaccessible and it would serve well for Spotted owls.

It is true that there are many acres that can never be logged, but, Spotted owls require certain types of habitat and the hundreds of acres you refer to may not meet these requirements.

383/1313

A recent Spotted owl report by the Natl. Audubon Society suggests that the buffer zones proposed in the plan are inadequate. The Audubon report recommends at least 2,200 acres per owl territory. This information should be reflected in the Standard and Guidelines including reference to where and how mature timber will be set aside and managed in a manner consistent with Spotted owl preservation. An effective or viable population size must be determined for all sensitive species.

The Forest is presently meeting the Regional standards for maintaining the viability of the Spotted owl populations. The Forest Service is continuing to collect information on the Spotted owl through the Spotted owl Research Development and Application Program which covers the known range of the Spotted owl in Oregon, Washington, and California. Also, see response to 383/0545.

383/1520

A serious concern is the down slope winter movement of Spotted owls which has been recorded to be as much as 4,000 feet. Can the Forest provide protection for connecting habitat into these lower elevations? Spotted owls represent a specific case where more information is needed to determine habitat requirements.

The Pacific Southwest Research Station is presently studying the Spotted owl on the Forest, and addressing these questions.

Regional guidelines indicate that buffer zones around Spotted owl nest sites should be 1.5 miles in radius. The Spotted owl report suggests that the buffer zones proposed are inadequate, and recommends at least 2,200 acres. Mature timber alone won't support the pairs.

See response to 383/0545.

383/1533

The Sierra Plan and EIS hardly address to how the Spotted owl and its habitat are to be maintained. Page 3-45 of the EIS indicates that planners believe 12 spotted owl management territories - or SOMTs - arranged in a matrix, the necessary minimum required in the commercial forest zone. This assumption appears rather pessimistic because, as table 2.01 on page 2-14 of the EIS indicates, a six to 10 percent spotted owl population increase is projected under minimum level management. The Sierra Plan should at least discuss an occurrence. Other forest plans typically do this by addressing the concept of minimum visible population, but nowhere is this done in the Sierra Plan or EIS.

Viable population level for the Spotted owl is based on the most current research information and is established at the Regional level. The Forest SOHA network has been modified to include five in wilderness and 24 outside of wilderness. Park SOHAs may also be established. The Forest Service is continuing to collect information on the Spotted owl through the Spotted owl Research Development and Application Program.

For the preparation of the EIS, planners should assure that the planned 20 SOMTs found on the Forest will indeed preserve a minimum viable owl population. The latest scientific methods should be used allowing a margin of error for all unavoidable assumptions. The way in which the final result is obtained should be displayed in Appendix B. Further, OWLHAB table should be redesigned to reflect owl habitat to the best scientific knowledge. Suitability percentages can likely not be attributed to stands younger than 180 years, and only stands 300 years and older should be considered 100 percent suitable. Re-running some of the alternatives will then tell planners whether the owl pair figures in the draft are accurate.

The strategy selected for managing SOHAs was no scheduled timber harvest, therefore the FORPLAN model was constrained and does not allow timber harvesting in SOHAs.

383/1669

One thousand acres will not be adequate habitat for the owls. Why only 18 territories when the Goshawk has a similar home range size and the forest is willing to provide for sixty pairs.

A total of 29 SOHAs has been selected for the SOHA network in the Preferred Alternative. See response to 383/1313 & 0545 for an explanation of our current direction regarding Spotted owls. Also, please refer to the narrative on Goshawks on pg. 3-44 in the DEIS.

383/1702

The number of spotted owl management areas on commercial timberlands could be limited to 12-15 areas instead of the 18 in the Proposed Plan.

The minimum number of spotted owl management areas and their distribution were established in the Regional Planning Guide. The Forest spotted owl management network meets but does not exceed the minimum established by the Region. The Forest currently has established 29 SOHAs, 24 of which are on lands available for timber production.

383/1716

Guidelines indicate that buffer zones around Spotted owl nests should be a 1.5 mile radius. The DEIS mentions the conflicts of managing commercial forest for Spotted owls with respect to timber and deer management objectives. CNPS reminds the Forest of its multiple use mandate and decreases in Spotted owl population proposed in nearly all plan alternatives could contribute to the need for federal listing as Threatened or Endangered.

See response to 383/0545 for an explanation of our current direction regarding Spotted owls.

383/1736

A thorough scientific study should be conducted on the ecology of Spotted owls in the Forest to determine, if their population size is increasing, stable, or decreasing; if they require old growth forest for survival and reproduction; how large a breeding territory is required for each pair.

See response to 383/1313. Research is continuing on the Spotted owls through the Forest Service Spotted owl Research, Development and Application Program and inventories of Spotted owl for other Forest Program activities and inventories of Spotted owls related to other Forest programs.

383/1817

All present Spotted owl territories should be retained. Oldgrowth should be preserved.

See response to 383/0545.

383/1828

We are concerned about several portions of the draft. One major concern is the amount of commercial timberland to be restricted for the Spotted owl. The estimated 1,800 owls in California would seem to indicate to this uneducated person that the little devils are alive and well-somewhere, and that to sacrifice a town or a company or a single job, is, if not unnecessary, at least extremely premature.

See response to 383/0545.

383/1842

I would like to know how much taxes the Spotted owls pay. They want all this land for them. The Spotted owl isn't even on the endangered species list. If you've got so many in other states, why do we worry about them here?

See response to 383/0545.

How does setting aside 2,200 acres for each 550 pairs of owls benefit us? How does it benefit the taxpayer? The government doesn't even do that for senior citizens who paid taxes for years. I mean they're going to do something big for our owls that God made to live in the forest for years.

See responses to 383/0545

383/1858

Economic evaluation of Spotted owls and visual resources and their cost to the American people are much underestimated and hidden in the verbage of this report.

An economic analysis is part of the DEIS and Plan, and displays trade-offs of managing all resources. Please turn to the economical trade-offs analysis section, including tables, in the FEIS, Chapter 2. The tables, along with their accompanying narrative, should be of particular interest.

The fact your forest is adjacent to Yosemite National Park must not be forgotten when allocating land to a single habitat such as the Spotted owl habitat.

We may coordinate with Yosemite National Park on Spotted owls. However, special distribution and suitability of habitat will need to be considered before Park lands are included into the Forest SOHA network. See response to 383/0545.

383/1861

I think the Park Service, Yosemite and the Wilderness areas should be maintained for the Spotted owl

See response to 383/1313 & 0545.

384-SENSITIVE SPECIES

384/1313

We recognize that the Forest is aware and concerned with sensitive species issues. However, the dynamic and complex nature of sensitive species and community information can lead to omissions and inconsistencies in the development of plans.

Thank you for your comment. We will continue to gather information on sensitive species and communities through our Monitoring Plan (Chapter 5 of the Plan) and make appropriate changes through time.

384/1362

The Forest predicts increasing livestock grazing will proportionally increase potential impacts to flycatcher populations. It makes no effort at reducing potential impacts by development of specific S&Gs that effectively control cattle impacts to willows. Only a dozen or so willow flycatchers have been found on the Sierra. This species must be afforded special habitat protection.

We are planning several fencing projects in cooperation with the California Dept. of Fish & Game to protect known Willow flycatcher habitat. In addition we have specifically identified Willow flycatcher for long term population monitoring. We also employ professional range conservationists to assist in preventing loss of Willow flycatcher nest sites.

How much habitat is being provided for maintaining Goshawk territories? At least 123 acres should be provided until such time as the Forest Service has sufficient field data to show that less habitat can maintain viability. Habitat should be maintained for at least 75 pairs with retained habitat located throughout CAS lands,

Presently 50 acres of suitable habitat is established for each Goshawk nest territory. Research literature on Goshawks indicate differences in habitat utilization, depending on habitat type. As stated in response #384/1520, we have included a survey and additional standards in the final EIS and Plan to protect Goshawk habitat. The maximum density of Goshawks that has been found in California is approximately two township. Based on the total acres of forested lands, we have calculated the maximum number of Goshawk territories which can be supported is about 50 pairs.

384/1520

Northern Goshawks' proposed 50 acre territories are significantly below that recommended by published documents. Old growth requirement should be a minimum of 150 acres. DEIS states Goshawk inventory has not been completed. Potential impacts to the Goshawk from Forest Service activities cannot be accurately determined. If the Plan is to meet requirements of CFR Section 219.19, an effective or viable population size must be determined for all sensitive species.

The current direction on managing Goshawks was explained in the DEIS pg. 3-44. A viable population of Goshawks will be managed on the Forest during Plan implementation through several S&Gs which include Spotted owl management areas, riparian zones, and wilderness. Known nest sites will be protected from disturbance. A survey is among our future research needs for the Goshawk. Goshawk nests will be monitored as outline in Chapter 5 of the Plan.

384/1669

Censusing by recording flycatcher vocalizations is not an accurate monitoring technique. Often, males will stop vocalizing as soon as the nest is built.

Please refer to Chapter 5 of the Plan for a summary of the monitoring strategy for Willow flycatchers. The intent of monitoring is to gather baseline information for a period of four years and then monitor trends every other year thereafter. We are aware of the reduction in male vocalization after pair bonding. However, we will continue to coordinate with research and modify our monitoring technique using the most current information.

Omitted from the list of survey requirements were Spotted owl and Willow flycatcher surveys, neither of which are part of the "field counts" for avian species.

Table 5.01, pg.5-6 of the Draft Plan lists monitoring requirements for Spotted owl and Willow flycatcher.

384/1716 & 1313

The Plan and FEIS mention the Peregrine falcon, Bald eagle, Spotted owl, Willow flycatcher, Goshawk and the Lahontan and Paiute cutthroat trout as sensitive species. California Department of Fish and Game indicates that other rare animal species occur that need special attention: the wolverine, Mount Lyell salamander, Sierra Nevada red fox, Great Gray owl, Prairie falcon, and the Limestone salamander. Sierra should include them on the sensitive species list

The Sierra Nevada red fox and the Great Gray owl are listed on the Regional Forester's sensitive species list. The other species are not part of the list. However, the Forest will be able to maintain all species listed in your comments by protection of special management areas, such as Spotted owl management areas, riparian areas, wild and scenic river corridors, and wilderness. The Forest will also continue its coordination with the CDFG in the management of these animals.

385-THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

385/0089

Why protect only 6 nest sites for falcons? I think all of their nests should be protected

Surveys of cliff systems in the Forest conducted in 1980 identified six superior nest sites. Please refer to the narrative on Peregrine falcons in Chapter 3 of the EIS for a detailed explanation of the S&G. See response to 385/1817. The Forest will establish three nesting pair of peregrine falcons which contribute to the Regional recovery goal of 80 pairs for the National Forests of California.

385/0095

I don't see any point in upgrading the number of commercial sites. It doesn't make sense to me that we should increase the amount of recreational developments throughout the Forest, because many animals would be forced out of their natural habitat. I'm glad we are protecting the nest sites of peregrine falcons Ever since I started learning about them, I have grown to love them more and more.

The proposed expansion of commercial recreational development is around existing lakes, reservoirs, and heavy use areas such as Dinkey Creek. Any new impact to animals is going to be negligible since those developed sites have existed for approximately 30 years. Thank you for your support of the protection of peregrine falcons

385/0153

I think that you should give more attention to endangered species I also think you should provide for more educational opportunities for the younger generation.

Recovery plans have been written for the Peregrine falcon and Bald eagle, which the Forest Plan addresses. Regional direction emphasizes the need to protect the habitat for endangered species.

385/0182

Why can't the mountain lions and Spotted owls be moved? Also, what are you going to do about the Forest losing its trees to root rot because they aren't being thinned out.

See response to 383/1313 regarding your question on Spotted owls. Your question pertaining to mountain lions is outside the scope of the Plan. The California Department of Fish and Game is responsible for managing lion populations. Root rot is an incidental and minor problem in the forest.

385/0244

I agree with S&G 48, it is very important that we protect roost trees for Bald eagles at Bass, Shaver, Redinger, and Pine Flat Lakes. Also, my family and I enjoy going to the snow many times each year and think that providing parking and sanitation facilities is a good idea.

Thank you for your supportive comments.

385/0387

We are unable to endorse your preferred alternative because 200 feet riparian zones of Cow and Portuguese Creeks seems excessive.

Because Cow and Portuguese Creeks provide habitat for federally listed threatened trout, we feel that the S&Gs described in the FEIS and in the Plan are appropriate. See response to 385/1520.

385/0464

Opportunities for improving conditions for Bald eagles are limited because suitable roost trees near preferred lakes and reservoirs are abundant and foraging habitat is currently good.

The statement you refer to is a general comment of habitat conditions in reservoirs where Bald eagles have been observed. Constructing roost trees probably will not be needed. However, there are opportunities at Bass Lake to enhance individual roost trees. Also, see response to 385/1669.

385/1313

We are concerned with some inconsistencies regarding instream flows that may be reduced as a result of hydroelectric power projects. Decreases in late season stream levels could seriously impact sensitive species, such as Lahontan cutthroat trout.

There are currently no proposed hydroelectric power projects, and probably never will be any projects that could influence the habitat of the two identified Lahontan cutthroat trout populations in the Forest. See response to 385/1520.

385/1393

A knowledgeable person should be hired who can identify and study plants and animals.

Thank you for your comment. The Forest plans to hire a botanist/ecologist in the near future.

385/1520

We are pleased with the direction of the Plan regarding riparian protection and management and streamside management for all reaches of Portuguese and Cow Creeks. We recommend determination of critical and essential habitat for Lahontan cutthroat trout and Paiute cutthroat trout.

Thank you for your supportive comments. Management strategies for these two fish species have been defined in their associated recovery plans. The Forest does not have plans to pursue a classification of critical or essential habitat for the streams occupied by Lahontan or Paiute cutthroat trout. These federally-listed threatened species are legally and adequately protected by the intent of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, amended 1986. The Forest has developed S&Gs to provide further protection for these species as found in the EIS (Section 2 5.3.2) and in the Plan (Section 4.5 18)

385/1669

No logging activity should be allowed within the protected strips along the portions of Cow and Portuguese Creeks that contain the population of Lahontan cutthroat trout. Similar restrictions should apply to the tributaries above those populations. The small amount of land removed from timber production is a small price to pay for the adequate protection of those fisheries. How will the impacts of livestock grazing be managed on these listed species?

Our management direction for the Cow Creek and Portuguese Creek drainages is described in Section 2.5.3.2 of the EIS and Section 4.5 18 of the Plan. Because the Lahontan cutthroat trout is a federally-listed threatened species, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires extensive coordination with federal and state agencies whenever major construction projects are

proposed within the occupied watershed. On a case-by-case basis, management within the 200 foot protection zone would be defined after coordination with other agencies.

The Portuguese Creek streamside zone offers little or no forage for cattle and is not expected to experience impacts from livestock use. Some of the more accessible areas of livestock forage in the Cow Creek drainage are currently fenced off to exclude livestock and protect against potential livestock impacts.

The Forest is willing to provide protection to roost trees and feeding areas for the endangered Bald eagle, yet no money is provided to identify these areas.

The Forest has long been aware of the Bald eagle roost and feeding areas and have initiated several projects to enhance the use of these areas by Bald eagles around Pine Flat Reservoir. District personnel have long recorded Bald eagle use in other reservoirs. Depending on program priorities, we will enhance the use of other reservoirs by Bald eagles sometime in the future.

Sixty pairs of Goshawks seems like an extremely ambitious target. How many pairs were in the Forest in 1986?

No formal survey of Goshawks was conducted in 1986. See response to 384/1520 and 384/1362 for additional information.

There is no mention made of the protection of nest sites of the Peregrine falcon.

Please refer to S&Gs in the Final Plan. Since the Peregrine falcon is a federally Endangered Species, they will be protected throughout the life of the Plan.

You need to create a new S&G that states: all permitted activities will be restricted if Bald eagle wintering activity suggests that nesting may be imminent.

Bald eagles are federally-listed as endangered, and, therefore are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. In the event a Bald eagle is found nesting within the boundaries of the Forest, we will comply with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the current recovery plan for the Bald eagle.

A Goshawk nest has been used for several years in the largely vacant Camp Mary-Mac, and as such, expansion should not be allowed.

The S&G which refers to Camp Mary-Mac has been eliminated in the FEIS and Plan because of the termination of the permit.

385/1682

We need a history of the Condor habitat in the Forest for the Condor recovery plan.

This comment is outside the scope of this Plan. The Forest does not have historic Condor habitat.

385/1716

CNPS supports the S&Gs that propose additional care in streamside management for all reaches of Portuguese and Cow Creeks where Lahontan cutthroat trout occurs and all Class I, II, and III tributaries. We recommend that proposals be included in the Final Plan for the determination of critical and essential habitat of the Lahontan and Paiute cutthroat trout. We recommend all sensitive species be designated as MIS.

See response to 385/1520 and 382/1520.

385/1817

Threatened and endangered species habitat should be maximized.

We are unsure what you meant by the term "maximized." The Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on all federally-listed threatened and endangered species. We are also directed to prevent any species from being listed. We have

identified several species as sensitive, such as the Spotted owl, Goshawk, sensitive plants, and taken steps to maintain a viable population. See response 385/1520.

386-DEER HERD MANAGEMENT

386/0167

I agree that screening the roads in deer habitat areas is a fine idea to protect the animals, and has my approval all the way

Thank you for your support.

386/0171

I think you should minimize activity such as logging and vehicular traffic in all deer population centers throughout the year. I also think you should minimize caretaking activities in deer holding areas throughout the year. I think you should keep vehicle traffic at low levels in all deer winter ranges.

See response to 380/0142.

386/1002

DEIS, pages v and vi - What caused the deer herd decline in the 1960's?

Please refer to the narrative on Mule Deer in the FEIS.

386/1178

Deer fawning areas should be excluded from livestock grazing permits, and key areas should be fenced to retain cover for fawns.

Cattle grazing seasons are adjusted to allow deer to use mountain meadows during most of the fawning season. Construction of fences for large areas is very costly, and maintenance would fall upon grazing permittees. However, if problems are identified, then adjustments can be made in livestock distribution to minimize the impact. Please see the narrative on Range in the Plan.

386/1362

A minimum of 15 basal square feet/acre (or crown closure equivalent) must be retained in all harvest areas, with additional amounts provided in key areas. It is critical that retained oaks be distributed throughout harvest areas and not "stacked" into noncommercial portions of compartments. A standard should be provided that will reduce livestock impact to blue oaks and allow their regeneration on forestland.

Regarding blue oaks and cattle grazing, refer to Long-Term Changes from Different Uses of Foothill Hardwood Ranges, by Duncan, McDougald, Westfall, 1986 (PSW Report: PSW-100), which determined that cattle grazing had no effect on oak reproduction. Although the standard accepted by the ID team decision-making process does not meet all timber management expectations or all the needs for wildlife, both timber and wildlife interests were well represented in all ID team meetings. The standard stated in the decision should maintain acceptable wildlife habitat, yet produce fairly high timber yields. The economics of our ASQ decision was a major public issue and is discussed in a separate section

386/1581

We can see no justification for the lower mule deer population of 5,300 displayed in the output for Alternative H, compared with PRF, and strongly suggest that this be corrected and explained.

The deer population figures were based on the level of management and protection given to deer under each alternative (ie. habitat improvement, critical deer area, and level of harvest). Please refer to Appendix B (FEIS) regarding mule deer population differences among alternatives.

386/1619

We would like the Forest Service to work in conjunction with Fish and Game in monitoring the decline in deer herd and the increase in predator populations.

Please refer to Appendix B for a list of research needs. The Forest continues to work with Fish and Game in monitoring deer herds and lion population.

386/1669

At least some effort should be made to describe the scope and goals of this habitat improvement program. Given the declining situation of deer herds, the Forest Service needs to concern itself with 100% of the population centers and holding areas, not just 75% as stated. This should involve reduced disturbances during the critical fawning times and habitat improvement.

The figure in the DEIS of 75% reflects the result of the analysis between the alternatives in the FEIS. The DEIS compared alternatives. It assessed the impacts of improving the habitat in 100% of the deer population centers and holding areas (Alternative E) to no improvements (Alternatives F, H, I) Alternative A was selected as the Preferred Alternative because it gave the best mix of resource uses.

S&G 41 states there is a #39 population center on the map, but there isn't one. Additionally, management activity should be minimized beginning June 15, not July 1.

Thank you for pointing out the typographical error We will change the number to 29 in the final EIS and Plan. See response to 380/0142 for our response to the second part of your comment.

The annual reports from Dept. of Fish and Game are questionably moderate in precision/accuracy. Little data exists to form statistical estimates of value on these reports.

As the Plan is implemented, many of the sampling techniques will be refined, based on greater statistical accuracy.

Management activity should be minimized until the end of November, for both elevations as evidenced by deer movements in 1986

Thank you for your comment. We will change the FEIS to read, "management activities will be minimized to the end of November".

386/1702

Deer are adaptable animals that can survive in areas where timber has been harvested. Timber management need not be modified in key deer habitat areas.

While it is true that deer have some ability to adapt to changes in habitat, harvest limitations, in some key areas, are necessary to increase deer populations. Timber management in such areas would include leaving more down logs and brush, creating more edge and transitional zones. Based on the most current information, these types of management requirements are needed to provide a harvestable population of deer.

386/1798

We are especially interested in the relationship of the Forest's 5 identified mule deer herds to the mountain lion. The Plan does not address this relationship other than to say it needs more study. We consider the lack of a herd management plan to be a serious deficiency of the Forest's efforts to increase the size of these herds We are deeply concerned by the perception that herds would be improved by eliminating the mountain lion. The herds are endangered more by poachers and loss of habitat, than by lion predation.

We are continuing to coordinate with CDFG Game to update the state's deer herd management plans. Please refer to the Plan for a list of deer herd management plans, which will be revised during this planning period. These plans will only consider habitat needs. Poaching is an ongoing problem which the CDFG handles as part of their normal operations.

386/1863

You'll never have any deer unless you get rid of the cattle and mountain lions.

Elimination of grazing is not a valid alternative for increasing the deer population. Mountain lions are managed by the CDFG and outside the authority of the Forest Service.

387-CONFLICTS WITH GRAZING

387/1806

Even wilderness, the area where there should be no substantial impacts, is allowed to suffer. To maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics, hydroelectric development must not be allowed, and mining and grazing must be eliminated. Cattle are out of character in wilderness, and they compete with and exclude wildlife

Hydroelectric development is not allowed in wilderness unless it was pre-existing before wilderness designation, or part of wilderness legislation. Mining is allowed on valid claims if established before 1984, no new claims are permitted after that date. Elimination of grazing in the wilderness is outside the authority of the Forest Service.

388-HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

388/0091

I think we should give more than "slight" attention to habitat improvement.

See response to 380/0164

388/0178

S&G 76 says recover meadows to "fair" condition. What do you consider fair?

Range analysis measurements of montane meadows entails recording or tallying ground surface and plant species composition. Herbaceous species tallies are recorded as primary, secondary, or low value "invader" species. A good mixture of primary and secondary species is needed to maintain the health and vigor of montane meadows. Arbitrary categories are used to classify range condition usually expressed as either excellent, good, or poor. Range condition evaluates current productivity relative to natural potential capability. Excellent condition refers to herbage production and species composition at, or near, climax. Range condition evaluation methodology aims to detect or record departure from the natural potential or "climax" capability. For an excellent condition rating, primary species must make up 75% of the herbaceous tally, and secondary species must make up no more than 25%. A fair condition would result in less than this: 25% primary species and 25% secondary species in the composition. The number of low value or "invader" species would increase as the ecological condition class decreased from excellent to fair to poor.

388/1002

DEIS pg 2-42 and 43 reports that there will be 2,800-3,700 acres of direct habitat improvement annually; and, 3,200-4,800 acres of chaparral treated annually, with wildlife and protection receiving the largest benefits. Are the 2,800-3,700 part of the 3,200-4,800, or are they separate acres.

There is an overlap in acreage figures. The chaparral acreage reflects not only benefits to wildlife, but also to fuels reduction, watershed, protection, and range.

388/1231

Opportunities to increase the number of fishery habitat improvement projects should focus on soil stabilization measures that minimize sediment entry into stream channels. Extensive coordination with other resources, coupled with mitigation measures, should be implemented to achieve at least a moderate level of fishery habitat improvements.

Soil stabilization and watershed restoration opportunities are identified on a continuous basis, and prioritized through our Watershed Improvement Needs Inventory. These projects are funded by a variety of sources, including timber sale KV dollars and special appropriated funds from Congress. All of the projects are valuable in meeting our goals to maintain and improve fishery habitat, and water quality. Please see Sec. 4.0 of the Forest Plan for a description of our intent to complete annual fishery habitat improvements

388/1362

An important item not discussed under the Environmental Consequence Range section is the relationship of livestock grazing to blue oak regeneration. Cattle have been allowed to degrade blue oak woodland for many years and effectively prevent its regeneration. A mulch retention standard in annual grass, blue oak range of 700-1,000 lbs./acre is recommended.

See response to 386/1362. Standards for Residual Dry Matter (RDM) for California annual grass rangelands are found in the Range Environmental Analysis Handbook, 2209.21, Chapter 900.

388/1418

A "snags" policy should be initiated, as they provide for wildlife habitat. In addition, a down and dead wood policy should be initiated to allow the wood to remain for wildlife, and soil building.

See S&Gs in the Final Plan, regarding snag and down log policy.

388/1475

Preservation of our wildlife habitat with proper management would not only enhance, but improve the grazing and lifespan of wildlife. Without proper cutting of the forest, I feel that these benefits would cease.

Prior to each project, wildlife requirements are taken into consideration before anything is done on the ground.

388/1669

The methods of converting brush to grass should be listed with a projected mix: prescribed burn: 50%, mechanical: 30%, herbicide: 20%

The method for converting brush to grass is determined on a site-by-site basis, as prescribed by landform, vegetation, soil type, purpose, and need. We currently do not plan to conduct brush type conversion projects

388/1702

A diversity of habitats could be maintained on the Forest, but the quality and quantity of certain habitats (such as oak stands, meadows, and old growth timber sites) could be partially reduced.

Different levels of diversity was considered and documented in other alternatives.

389-MOUNTAIN LION

389/1700

We urge the Forest Service to make a commitment in the Plan, that no lion removal or hunting program will be allowed.

This comment is outside the scope of the Plan California Department of Fish & Game is responsible for managing the lion population.

389/1808

We are concerned with the unwarranted protection, without research, of the 130 pairs of Spotted owls. This was done with mountain lions, and proved to be a mistake. In the late '70s, there were reported cases at Bass Lake of lions killing domestic pets. Eastern Madera County ranchers reported their livestock being destroyed because of an abundance of these "endangered" species.

See responses to 383/1018 & 0545.

390-EDITORIAL COMMENTS

390/1669

Vague descriptors used throughout the text of the Plan (ie. "moderate reductions", "substantially above" etc.), need to be quantified whenever possible, in terms of the units being discussed.

We attempt to quantify wherever possible. However, we do not have the staff or financial resources available to develop this level of information. Assessment of impacts of activities is usually stated in comparative terms such as high, moderate, low, substantial, significant. We have standards and guidelines as well as monitoring plans to ensure that if any negative effects occur because of using "comparative terms," activities could be modified.

390/1682

In spite of commendable features (WSR), the DEIS does not fulfill the NFMA intent of Congress with respect to wildlife, habitat, and integration of other resources.

Our final plan complies with all regulations and goals of NFMA. In the Plan, resources are balanced, so that people, as well as animals and their environment benefit.

It's been ten years since the passage of NFMA (1976), and only a minimal number of studies have been done. This is forewarning that studies may not appear in the upcoming 5 or 10 year planning period. The near absence of a resource inventory foundation is indicative of a near non-existent plan. Forest plan to expedite data gathering and research program.

The Forest utilized all of the best available data during the planning process, ie. literature, professional expertise, State Fish and Game and numerous studies which have been carried out by Forest Service research and Universities. We are committed to improving the data base in the next ten years.

Regarding the Plan, you need to reallocate and rescope the budget from adverse development to research prerequisite to FMP completion.

Congress assigns and distributes our budget based on outputs and not on how much data we gather. Congress is the only one who could change our program from producing outputs, to gathering data.

391-PLAN

391/0279

The draft Plan you have written is one of the best plans of any National Forest.

Thank you for your support.

391/0283

The final Plan should include: an alternative that emphasizes selective cutting, uneven age management, limited use of herbicides; itemized accounting of overall timber production costs, and expected return; documentation of the figures used for dollar value of recreation. Hiking and other

nonintensive forms of recreation are severely undervalued, a reduction in the amount of timber planned for sale, and a consequent improvement in overall Forest management.

Both the revised Amenity and Preferred Alternatives now contain a significant amount of uneven-aged management. Recently, a new timber sale accounting system TSPIRS was initiated that identifies detailed costs and returns.

391/0472

I believe that a balanced plan which offers industry a chance to operate, and yet maintains wilderness, wildlife, and recreation areas, would be best for everyone.

The Forest Service agrees with you, we feel that our Preferred Alternative offers the most for all.

391/0535

I have seen my community prosper with a continued increase in employment and have enjoyed the financial and social benefits that long term employment has to offer. I would hate to see my community collapse and have my job and family put in jeopardy, which is what is going to happen if the decline in timber production continues. I can't understand why the environmental groups demand more wilderness areas, and less productive measures for the National Forest.

See response to 311/0305.

391/0865

My family requests that forest plans be formulated with heavy emphasis on conservation.

Your comment was considered during the preparation of the Final Plan.

391/1002

Page VII of the Summary observes that "The Forest provides 30% of the lumber manufactured in the San Joaquin Valley." That raises the unanswered question, "Who provides the other 70%?"

Other stumpage sources can be found in USDA-Forest Service Resource Bulletin-PNW-75.

We found the general layout and the way the document read to be confusing. To find one answer in several different locations within the documents, adds to the time and complexity of the review process and will inevitably discourage review by all.

The organization and structure of this document, for consistency and completeness, is largely a function of administrative policies set in Washington, D.C.

391/1134

The plan is heavily biased toward "commodity" output, especially timber. Only the low budget alternative proposes to reduce timber harvest permanently.

The average harvest for the past twenty-five years has been 133 MMBF. The current condition reflects the harvest in 1982 which was the base year. Thus, the Preferred, Current, Low Budget and Amenity Alternatives all reduce harvests below the average. In addition, a conservation alternative which had a below average ASQ was analyzed in the FEIS.

391/1303

I believe that it is commendable to maintain some free space in the Forest, but a workable compromise that will be beneficial to people as well as nature is needed. All the alternatives display the class system for the forestlands, and therefore show the concern for nature.

The Preferred Alternative provides the best mix of benefit for both people and environment.

391/1383

Though I am sure that the work is of the highest quality, the point is most difficult to determine because of specialized jargon developed for the forest planning program, and because basic information was not presented, either to describe existing conditions, as a basis to determine rates of change following certain actions, or to assess new conditions resulting from those actions.

We tried to make the Plan and FEIS as readable as possible. Included in our Appendices was a list of the acronyms and abbreviations that were used. Within the Plan are S&Gs, and monitoring procedures that allow for modification of activities that appear to endanger the Forest's ecological status. The resource staff monitors Forest conditions and collects basic information on the resources of the Forest.

391/1412

Possible budget deficits should be planned to ensure that environmental goals are not pushed aside.

Because several comments were received on this subject, we developed Appendix P to explain the relationship between the planning and budgeting processes. Please refer to that appendix for the answer to your questions

391/1533

We recognize that many of the unacceptable aspects of this Plan, particularly in the area of timber management, are reflections of a regional and national Forest Service philosophy, and we therefore request that our comments on this Plan be forwarded to those responsible for these directives at the appropriate level.

Your comments will be discussed with officials at the Regional and National level.

To cover an adequate range of alternatives, Sierra planners should develop one or more alternatives exploring the possibility of permanently reducing timber harvest.

An alternative was added to the FEIS to reflect your concern. In addition, the Amenity Alternative was modified to include uneven-aged management for all CAS land with slopes less than 35%. The new alternative (Conservation Alternative) is our attempt to add the input from this letter into an alternative. The results of this analysis can be found in Section 2 of the FEIS. The volume of this alternative was 66 MMBF. The Preferred Alternative also significantly reduces the timber harvest.

391/1637

In matters of national as well as local interest, such as wilderness, wild rivers, Spotted owl habitat, we believe the Plan should consider availability of areas on adjoining national forests and parks. This should help achieve a better balance of resource allocations where important benefits are at stake

When developing the Plan, various adjoining Parks and Forests were consulted and their input was included in the Plan.

391/1669

We would like to see an additional Forestwide Goal and Objective: "Manage botanical resources to maintain the present diversity of species."

Thank you for your comment. The appropriate changes have been made.

The military should be contacted as needed concerning military aircraft; more frequently than every 2 years might be more effective. S&G 383 should be expanded to cover the entire Forest, not just wilderness.

New procedures and communication channels have been implemented by the Forest Service for aircraft intrusions.

391/1839

I am very concerned about the outcome of this LMP.

The Preferred Alternative provides the best mix of benefits for both people, wildlife and the environment.

392-DEIS

392/0298

The drawings in the DEIS are well done and compliment the document.

Thank you for your support.

392/1002

Table 2 31 confirms the existence of nearly 190,000 acres of unsuitable forested land, but lists three-fourths of it as "withdrawn." Clarification is needed.

"Withdrawn Acres" are areas where legislation prohibits timber harvest. On the Sierra, Wilderness designation has withdrawn an estimated 142,400 acres of forested land from timber harvest.

DEIS, page 2-12 - The discussion of the H20 benchmark correctly identifies the relationship between timber management and water yield.

The water yield benchmark maximizes the production of water subject to minimum standards and without impairing the productivity of the land. Regardless if regeneration costs are called water costs or timber cost the point of the discussion is that the costs outweigh the benefit. There are no plans to harvest timber solely to maximize water yield.

DEIS, page 2-13 reports, for the H20 benchmark, a 5-decade average yield of 2.713 MM or 387,000 more than MMR.

Thank you for pointing out the discrepancy. The FEIS has been corrected.

DEIS pg 2-50 - Projected outputs are compared to 1980 RPA pools However, the R-5 Regional Guide, with goals allocated to forests was published in 1984. MMRs and MIRs are established according to procedures set forth in the guide. How do those requirements relate to 1980 goals shown in Table 2.05 and elsewhere? How were those goals established?

The Resource Planning Act (RPA) goals are based on historical information. They are goals. MMRs are taken from 36 CFR 219.27 and generally represent requirements outside of the authority of the Forest Service They are needed for consistency of analysis between Forest's MIRs needed to ensure alternatives are minimally acceptable and implementable and to provide consistent treatment of certain requirements that are common to all alternatives. Together, MMRs and MIRs are requirements. All alternatives, including RPA, must meet MMR and MIR requirements in all decades.

DEIS pages 2-42 and 2-43 - Are the 2,800 - 3,700 acres included in the 3,200 - 4,800, or are they separate acres?

They are included in the 3,200 - 4,800 acres.

Draft plan page 6-10 - Table C.05 which deals with age class distribution of suitable lands shows 394,270 acres of suitable lands in the present forest and 393,700 in the future. However, the sum of suitable acres shown in Table C.03 is 373,500 and DEIS table 2 31 allocates 373,500 acres to the suitable category. It is not readily apparent where additional 20,000 acres in Table C.05 came from,

although we suspect it is the "minimum-level" acreage identified in line 7 of DEIS Table 2.31. Clarification is needed.

You are correct. Roughly 20,000 acres of otherwise suitable and capable land was found not be efficient for timber production

DEIS page 2-44 - Integrated pest management will be used only on CAS lands. A "low level" of pest management will be used on areas withdrawn or not capable of producing industrial wood. What are your plans for the other 28,000 acres?

Pest management activities would be limited to periodic extensive survey to detect pest activity.

DEIS table 2.11, page 2-80; and table 2.24, page 2-141 - The Wilderness use figures for the first and fifth decades in Alternative D do not agree between these two tables. We note, also, that although both Alternatives D and E add Wilderness acres (table 2.23), only D adds use. Why?

Thank you for pointing out this error. All alternatives start the same because the figure represents existing use.

In the DEIS, Sec. 1-1 states that, when approved, the Plan will incorporate 18 additional specific plans and be "compatible with" three more. Unless there is a review of individual plans, the review of this plan is incomplete. No reviewer can reasonably be expected to make the connection.

These plans are documents available to help guide Forest Service staff in managing the Forest. The public may consult these plans, which are available at our headquarters.

DEIS Table 2.31, page 2-158 - The footnote, "Acres in first decade," raises the question of whether you plan to rearrange the land classification after the first decade. Does the full planning horizon use this, or some other, classification?

We do not plan to change the land classification. However, when the Plan is updated in ten years, classification could change.

DEIS, pg. 3-8, Sec. 3.3.2.1 - We disagree with the last sentence of the first paragraph. To say that the proportionate role of natural resources is decreasing as the population of the local area grows is to ignore the full range of resource requirements.

The wording has been changed from "natural" to "commodity" in the Plan.

It would be easier to read Table 3.04 if the lines were totaled across.

DEIS Table 3.04 added columns to represent totals, and corrected all totals on the bottom row.

DEIS, pg. 3-69 - The last sentence on the page is interesting, in view of your 10 year timber sale program, which projects sales at only 80% of ASQ. If future timber harvest will depend substantially on timber stands created in the next 10 years, then a fall down to 80% of ASQ during the first decade will have serious long-term consequences. The Plan cannot implement the preferred alternative.

Thank you for pointing this out. We have corrected it in the Final Plan.

DEIS pg. 3-83 presents five categories of soil which total 1,372,000 acres. Table 2.31 recognizes 1,275,200 acres in the forest, some of which (now much?) is water. Explanation is needed.

The acreage figures on DEIS page 3-83 were obtained from soil survey maps. Except for the low productive soil category, the acres were rounded to the nearest 100,000 acres. The correct acreage for the Forest is 1,275,200 acres.

The comparison of "the six years between 1979 and 1984...." with "the most recent five year period...." renders the comparison meaningless. If you are to compare cost to income, it must be for a comparable time period. We returned to the below-cost discussion which said that accumulated cash for the 6 year period, 1979 to 1984 was \$1,115,000. During those years, we found that the harvest

from the Forest totalled 621 MMBF. Receipts, then approximated \$1.79 MBF. That figure is nonsense. Since you report the amount as "accumulated cash," it must not include the capital value of roads in place as the result of timber sale activity.

The national debate over the issue of below cost timber sales continues. Since the DEIS was issued the Forest has been implementing an accounting system that utilizes "generally accepted accounting principles" approved by the GAO. A 1987 test of the system indicated that the Forest timber program made a financial profit in 1987. In addition, the 1987 program created additional net economic benefits that will accrue in the future as well as beneficial local social-economic effects. As indicated in FEIS Appendix B section 2.6.3, it is currently national policy to provide most Forest outputs at either no charge to consumers or at a charge less than the willingness to pay price. Proposals to increase users fees are currently being debated between the Administration and Congress.

We would like you to underline a section of the statement found in the DEIS pg. 3-93; "Studies to establish values representing management disturbance are being planned. Until these additional studies are completed, direct assessment of CWE cannot be made."

In order to be consistent with the way the document has been written, it is not possible to underline the phrase you suggested.

We do not understand how the DEIS Table 4 03 illustrates the effects described in the text.

This table ranks alternatives numerically. Each number is found in the table at the end of each alternative description, under Visual Quality index. This index is just a way of displaying the comparison.

We have trouble understanding the meaning of DEIS Table 4.18, especially as it relates to the text. It appears that the 5 decade totals for soil disturbance are more favorable for Alternative H than A. The table specifically speaks to acres of soil disturbed, and it is not necessarily a display of projected soil productivity impacts.

As stated in the DEIS, forest soil productivity is altered by soil erosion, disturbance, and compaction. Generally, soil erosion and compaction increase with soil disturbance. Alternative H shows a lower number of acres disturbed by extensive disturbance such as intermediate, shelterwood, and selection harvest, but a considerably higher amount (36,999 acres) of intensive management which includes clearcutting and road construction. These practices generally have a higher impact on the land. Although Alternative H has a lower total number of acres disturbed, effects on soil productivity may be greater due to a higher intensity of disturbance.

Table 4.18 was incorporated for a comparison of disturbed land by different activities. While the table does not display projected soil productivity impacts, it does give a good indication of potential impacts to soil productivity. Forest research and monitoring is needed to determine the degree of impacts on soil physical properties, so we can apply research findings as they become available. There is presently an effort by Forest Research Stations in conjunction with the Forest Service to do full scale research in this area.

Plan pg 4-2 - If we accept the legislative direction in P.L. 96-514 "Produce high yield of timber....," then your Plan is faulty, as this has not been met.

The Forestwide goals and objectives have been revised to explicitly state the timber objective for this plan.

Plan pg 4-9 - Real Estate Management Program is geared toward land acquisition. To what extent have you considered disposal of isolated parcels of land to improve management efficiency? Discussions beginning on pg. 2-28 DEIS, seem to limit disposal by exchange of only those situations where it is necessary, ". . . to resolve conflicts in use." Is disposal, by sale, out of the question?

We have identified lands suitable for disposal, but, we have no sale authority. The objective of our land exchange program is to resolve conflicts in use and enhance management efficiency through consolidation of ownership.

The DEIS seems to indicate production on modified-yield lands at something less than "...the highest possible level .. ." Which is the level prescribed in the Plan? Clarification is needed.

Long-term sustained yield on regulation Class II lands (modified-timber yield) is about 70% of the highest possible because of increase the minimum rotation ages. Current harvest is about 68% of the maximum

DEIS Table 3 11, pg. 3-84 - The meaning of "NC" in the table is not readily apparent

"NC" means noncommercial. A definition has been added for clarification.

DEIS page 3-93 - We note with interest that, "Studies to establish values representing management disturbance are being planned. Until these additional studies are completed, direct assessment of CWE cannot be made "

While values for applying the regional CWE methodolgy are being established, direct assessment for CWE can be represented by using the clearcut acre in the general forest area as a surrogate measure.

Draft plan page 3-12 - 20-25% of the "lumber manufactured in the San Joaquin Valley" comes from the Sierra National Forest. At 20%, Alternative A represents a total Valley production of 625 MMBF. At 30% it represents 417 MMBF. The difference of 208 MMBF becomes a significant figure to other stumpage sources.

Stumpage sources can be found in USDA Forest Service Resource Bulletin PNW-75.

Draft Plan, page 4-2 - If we accept the legislative direction in P. L. 96-514 "Produce high yields of timber...", has not been met in this plan.

See response above.

Paragraph #80 - The DEIS statement seems to indicate production on modified-yield lands at something prescribed in the plan. Clarification is needed.

In this context, "highest possible" implies some reduction in timber yield to accommodate the co-emphasis resource which is also slightly less than its maximum.

Plan pp. 5-8 and 5-9 indicates that the activity practice called "timber volume sold" will be monitored through the technique of reviewing Annual Program Harvest Statements. At this point, we are confused by terminology. "Harvest" volume, whether programmed or actual, is different from "sold" volume

Actual offered volume will be monitored. The "Program Harvest Statement" report includes only volume offered for sale

It is not clear whether the ".. planned target for the monitoring period," is the ASQ (125.9 MMBF shown on page 6-9), the Timber Sale Program Quantity (125.9 MMBF shown on page 6-9), or the volumes shown in the 10-year action plan. If it is either of the first two, then the proposed action plan builds in an "Indication For Action."

Table C.06 has been revised to implement the Planned ASQ.

How will the considerable monitoring expense be budgeted and appropriated?

Monitoring finances will come from a variety of appropriated funds. The monitoring of a particular function will come from funds allocated for that function. Because several comments were received on this subject we developed Appendix P to explain the relationship between planning and budgeting processes. Please refer to that Appendix for additional clarification.

Appendix Table I.01, page 7-181 indicates that potential growth is 68 cf/ac/yr. The page 7-178 text refers to a differential of 54 cf/ac/yr. Those two presentations appear contradictory. Clarification is needed.

Thank you for pointing out this discrepancy. The figure on page 7-178 has been corrected.

Appendix page 7-241 - Uneven-aged Management defines stands with 3 age groups or more. The page 7-231 definition of Even-aged Management defines stands with a single age group. Where do two-aged stands fit?

They fit under even-aged management.

Appendix Page 7-241 - Primitive landscapes appear "totally natural." From where? As foreground scenes, or to an observer from within?

Primitive landscapes appear "totally natural" from the foreground.

392/1362

DEIS Table 3.09 appears to be incomplete since no silvicultural systems are given to allow comparisons.

Table 3.09 will be changed to include silvicultural systems

392/1363

DEIS pg. iv, paragraph 1. Whoever wrote this paragraph was being sloppy in his use of the word "infinite."

Thank you for pointing this out. We have changed the text.

392/1533

Planners sometimes claim that potential roaded recreation use will justify the roading of roadless areas. For the Sierra National Forest this claim cannot be made because new roads would not produce more recreation.

Your statement is generally true for the Forest. However, there may be some new roads that would increase use for a particular area.

393-MAPS

393/0304

The Wildlife element map only shows deer patterns. What about other animals? Keep 4 WD motorized vehicles out of Lake Edison area. No motorized vehicles allowed north of Granite Creek. Keep trail from Granite Creek camp up toward Cora Lake primitive. Keep northeast half of Lake Edison nonmotorized. Why is Kaiser Wilderness considered semiprimitive and not primitive? Views from Wildlife areas should be considered as you look out over adjacent designated areas.

Working in conjunction with State Fish & Game, we have monitored deer movement for many years, however, the information on other animals was based on a much shorter period of time. We cannot in good faith publish information on other animals when we are not certain that the information is accurate.

Edison lake is surrounded by wilderness so that the only 4WD use authorized is on the road that accesses Edison lake and the road to Onion Springs. A portion of the Cattle Timber Sale is planned north of Granite Creek. However, we will try to minimize the impact of the timber sale. Future plans include moving the Granite Creek/Cora Lake trail to the wilderness boundary. Wilderness is primitive not semiprimitive. Views are considered into the wilderness, however, they are not considered if you are looking back from wilderness over the general forest.

393/1002

DEIS, pg. 2-32 - The four unlabeled maps for five discussions do not add clarity

The maps have been labeled in the Final EIS.

393/1804

There is virtually no difference between the map for Alternative A and Alternative I. Since assigning land uses is a major goal of the Plan, maps are extremely important in displaying uses intelligently, and facilitating comparison of alternatives, and need to be redrawn to provide much more detailed information.

The maps for Alternatives A & I, are different. For example, Management Areas 2, 4, & 5 are different, there is much more ground allowed for timber management in Alternative I than A, and Alternative A has more dispersed recreation and front country than Alternative I.

394-APPENDIX

394/0063

In the Appendices, pg. 7-83, you refer to El Portal as having begun as a mining town. This is false. It began as an Indian winter settlement and became an orchard and garden for James Hennessy. It has always had communal or single ownership. In later years, it was the property of the railroad, and then the NPS.

Thank you for pointing out our error. Appropriate changes have been made to show the history of El Portal.

On pg. 7-83 of the Appendices, you state that there has been a recent resurgence of mining. There are no new mines along Merced or South Fork Merced Rivers. The dredge operations on the Merced are recreational, not economical.

Corrections have been made to show the correct state of mining.

394/0993 & 1282

It would greatly help the final version of the Plan to have a good bibliography. It is difficult to understand the basis for your management directions when background information is not referenced. A good bibliography would allow all those involved in the planning process to have access to the same information, and perhaps, arrive at your conclusions. For timber concerns it would be helpful to know more about the decision making process. There needs to be more discussion on the impact the Forest Service has on the creation of poor air quality in the mountains. The Plan states that pollution levels sometimes exceed urban levels.

We will take your suggestion regarding a bibliography into consideration when preparing the FEIS.

The timber decision making process is so lengthy it would be too cumbersome to explain in this response. However we would be glad to discuss this information with you.

The plan states that "our activities (burning) will be during "burn" days and in coordination with the local APCD." Most often, the poor air quality in the mountains is not generated by Forest Service activity, but in the San Joaquin Valley and is blown up slope to the mountains by ambient winds.

394/1002

Appendix page 7-230 In the definition of "erodibility," we suggest adding the word "to" after the word "soil" in the first sentence.

The change has been made.

In the definition of "Forest Survey Site Class," (Appendix pg. 7-231), you could enhance readability by including the full table on a single page.

We will include the full table in the Forest Survey Site Class.

Appendix pg 7-233 - Although the definition of Mean Annual Increment is technically correct, the term is usually used relative to volumes, either board-foot or cubic-foot, rather than diameters. For planning purposes, it is only meaningful when expressed in volumes.

The appropriate changes will be made in the text.

394/1681

Appendix B - Research Needs. Yes, continued research is essential to maintain the goals you are striving to reach. Appendix E - Wild and Scenic Study. Please preserve it and treasure it as we do.

Thank you for your comment.

395-MANAGEMENT STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

395/0088

On Standard and Guideline 353, convert 20,800 acres of brush to grass by 2000.

The conversion process is not a true conversion, but a periodic burning that leads to enhanced grass and browse for a few years. Based on public review, this treatment has been dropped from the Plan and FEIS. Some true conversion, to break up homogeneous brush fields for fire management purpose, will be created on selected major ridgetops along the front country. These projects will be coordinated with and multifinanced by fire management, wildlife management and range management. They will be created and maintained using a combination of mechanical clearing, prescribed fire and if applicable, application herbicide to maintain permanent openings.

Standard and Guideline #11 is a good idea, but where are we going to get the money?

Funds for constructing and maintaining road and trails come from Congressional appropriations and user fees.

Standard and Guideline #255 is a great idea. We need a public day use site in the Willow Creek area. I also like #349. There isn't enough space for recreation. #282 is also a good idea.

Thank you for your support

I disapprove of Standard and Guideline 7, because we don't want more stores in our National Forest.

S&Gs #7 in the Draft Plan refers to recreational service only, not to retail establishments.

Standard and Guideline 389 is not a good idea Fund raisers help people a lot.

S&G #389 in the Draft Plan complies with federal laws that we must follow.

I disagree with Standard and Guideline 380. You shouldn't let the insects live They ruin crops and spread disease

S&G #380 in the Draft Plan complies with the wilderness philosophy that the Forest must follow.

Standards and Guidelines #'s 2 and 233 are both being put into effect a little bit too late. #233 should be in effect in 1988.

Rehabilitation scheduling is related to availability of personnel, budget restrictions, and priority based on use and need. Lead time for budgeting and planning makes this unlikely. Plan will not be in effect until 1989.

Regarding Standard and Guideline #383, you should contact military bases every month or every time they do it.

Military aircraft are required to fly at elevations of 5,000 feet or more above wilderness areas. Violations of airspace are reported by visitors, but it is almost impossible to trace aircraft to the originating military base. During the summer of 1988, a centralized communication system will provide annual notification of airspace restrictions to military bases.

395/0094

Here are my comments on the Management Standard and Guidelines: #3, I think is good. #16 - provide playgrounds; #20 - Allow bicycles in park area, #35 - Protect nest, if endangered; #56 - Don't let owners destroy wildlife; #145 - Prevent city growth into forest; #176 - Visitor booths sparsely located; #211 - Increase fire prevention; #233 - Choose parking lots with care; #238 - Limit vehicles because of exhaust; #349 - Unused roads should be shut down and removed.

Your comments were considered in our analysis.

395/0097

I like Standard and Guideline 14. I think when reviewing #21 people should keep in mind if the animals in the area are being affected. I agree with #305. #35, 367 and 305 should pass. I hope you stop people from shooting animals because maybe someday they will become extinct.

Your comments were considered in our analysis

395/0098

Good suggestions on #2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 35, 204, 205, 225 and 226 in your manuscript. These were, sensible suggestions for our lakes, campsites, and hiking trails I feel that you made some bad decisions on #7, 21, 32, 87, 203, 206, 207 and 370. These seemed illogical and not very reasonable for our recreation sites and activities.

Many S&Gs are written in general terms to provide flexibility in planning and administration. The planning process provides checks and balances that provide protection and enhancement of multiple uses of forest resources. Certain resources must be protected as prescribed in federal laws, administrative directives and agreements between various agencies and organizations and the Forest.

395/0099

Standard and Guidelines 14, 21, 366 and 367 - Don't allow OHVs by animal habitats. Help animals that may become extinct. Research on lakes and creeks nearby. No firearms. I don't think #202 and 335 are right, as many animals may be killed. I don't like #21. Animals may need human help. #366 and 367 should proceed. Stop people from hunting or even shooting is not easy, but please try.

S&Gs #202 and #335 in the Draft Plan are not intended to expand vehicular travel. In fact, these S&Gs can be used to control and protect wildlife.

395/0100

Standard and Guideline #14 is not a good idea. Why would you not allow OHV travel? #21 is a costly and unimportant idea. I like #21a. It is a very good idea. You should not make any OHV allowances in those areas where delicate species can be endangered #22 is helpful. Better swimming areas would be enjoyable #23 is a waste of money that could go to making better

bathrooms at campgrounds. #35 is important as I would hate to see endangered species be hurt needlessly.

Restrictions are intended to protect habitat and soils as specified in many S&G, including S&G #21 in the Draft Plan S&G #23 in the Draft Plan does not involve any significant funds, but restricts timber cutting in order to provide pleasing landscape views, which in turn enhances the general economic status of the local business services that employ many local residents.

395/0103

Standard and Guideline #47: It is great that you are protecting endangered species. #53 is good for the land because seeding prevents erosion. #179 is good for people to understand cultural resources #189 is good to eliminate unsafe transportation in the Forest. #198 - I think you shouldn't increase the number of roads in the forest

S&G #198 in the Draft PLAN is intended to improve safety, not expand road networks.

395/0104

Standard and Guideline #304 - I think your snow vehicle guidelines are good, along with your fisheries standards. #7 was not very good because some commercial businesses may pollute the Forest. Some of the snag guidelines are good because they should be cleaned up, but some still need to be left.

S&G #7 in the Draft Plan is a general statement. Upgrading services and facilities is not intended to encourage expansion, rather to improve conditions with proper environmental safeguards

395/0107

Standard and Guideline #2 - Trail reconstruction needs to be accomplished at an earlier date. #26 - How much freedom would be allowed in the wild? #45 - Is there enough land allowed? #52 - Can't screening be saved in some cases? #69 - Regulating grazing is good. #72 - Your science is wrong. I agree with # 35, 37, 47-49, 56, 77, 101, 107 and 108. #49 is very important to protect the nesting grounds of endangered birds.

Currently existing trails are being improved. To rebuild trails is to protect resources and increase safety of users. Since our goal is to protect wildlife, S&G #52 in the Draft Plan allows for mitigating measures whenever possible. #72 in the Draft Plan implies that wildlife habitat protection takes precedence over identified conflict from cattle grazing.

395/0111

Standard and Guideline #1 - I agree with the recreational development for people to enjoy. #47 - I agree with protecting the Forest's 6 superior nest sites for peregrine falcons I also agree that the bald eagles need a feeding area. #305 - I don't agree with because I don't want to prohibit aqua-planing devices. #35 - Please protect the animals from hunters and traps people might put out.

Aqua-planing is prohibited for safety reasons These two lakes are used heavily for fishing Hunting and trapping is regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game

395/0112

How are you going to provide visitor safety and site protection by 2005? How are you going to improve the water quality? Will little kids be safe when you build foot paths around the lake.

Measures for safety and protection of visitors are part of the design and planning process. Resources are also protected by the S&Gs used in the planning process, required by federal regulations

How will you be alerted when a habitat is endangered, when there is degradation of air and water quality, loss of soil or vegetation, adverse impact on recreational uses, or technological changes in OHVs? Why can't screening be protected during management and how often will you have direct habitat improvement?

Monitoring will alert us to degradation of the environment. Often screening is left along roads to protect wildlife. Numerous habitat improvement projects are completed every year.

395/0116

Why do you want to allow insect, plant and animal infestations to run their natural course? I don't think you should increase sites by about 7% by 2000. This will be dangerous. Why do you want to provide upgrading commercial recreational services and facilities? I also think #23 is a big waste of money.

Infestations are only allowed to run their course in wilderness. Outside of wilderness, infestations are monitored and suppressed if warranted. There is a significant demand and public support for recreation development and maintenance of visual quality.

395/0119

I don't think you should make more space for the deer. I think you should let people cut down trees for firewood. I am glad that you are going to make new roads with new signs.

Your comments were considered in our analysis.

395/0123

Standard and Guideline #2 - How will you do that? #6 - What kind of campsites will you build? #208 - When you allow the natural fires to burn, how will you keep them under control? #214 - What kind of intensive law enforcement will you be using?

Plans for trail rehabilitation and campground construction are developed through an environmental analysis for each project. Strategies for natural fires in the wilderness will be confine, control or suppress depending on the assessment of each fire. Law enforcement will include both prevention and enforcement.

395/0124

Standard and Guideline #7- Why do you want to provide upgrading commercial recreational services and facilities? #23 is a waste of money. I don't think you should let the insects and disease infestations run their natural courses. Why do you want to increase sites about 7% by 2000?

Limited improvements of recreational facilities is an effective way to maintain the attractiveness of the Forest as visitors increase in number and use of the Forest. Improvements also protect facilities from physical deterioration. Only in wilderness do we let forest insect and disease run their natural courses

395/0130

Why should we provide for commercial upgrading? What good will that do our forests? Cedar snags should not be used for certain activities. My question is, why not? Wildlife section says to provide a certain amount of acreage for owls and I thought it didn't look like enough.

Research literature and professional observation indicate that primary cavity nesters do not select cedar snags over other conifer snags. The size of Spotted owl territories and habitat has been under study for some time. The issue is discussed in detail in the FEIS. See response to 395/0124 regarding commercial upgrading.

395/0131

I want you to cut down on all roads. You're taking too much land from wildlife. I think you should limit boats to 15 mph, when they are near the shore. Once a year, call the military and ask them not to fly low over wilderness.

Your comments were considered in our analysis.

395/0132

Rehabilitate trails before 2010. Is proposed increase in developed sites enough? How many new oaks will you plant? Why the increase in oaks? How can you tell changes are taking place, especially in the soil? The law for maximum noise level should be enforced by fines. Add more parking areas sooner. How many do we have now? The camping limit of 10 days is good. Boat limit should be 200.

Boat speed limit should be 20 mph. Why wait until 1990 for most things. Get it done now. Brush to grass before 2020.

The planning process for the protection of Forest resources is complex, subject to constraints imposed by fiscal, natural, economic and legal factors and by conflicting demands. Recommendations from staff specialists for accomplishing goals are subject to administrative policies, legal statutes, and fiscal constraints. Hence, goals as stated in S&Gs represent the best estimates of staff, with due consideration of public input.

395/0133

A wonderful idea is the closing of some roads during deer and other animal reproductive seasons. If a small natural fire is burning and isn't causing any major damage, you should let it burn and let nature take its course.

Thank you for your support and input See response to 395/0123

395/0139

Standard and Guidelines 4, 48 and 49, I am in complete agreement with I am glad that you thought them up Another item that I agree with is #107, also #234.

Thank you for your support.

395/0146

It is a good idea to provide facilities for the disabled in the forest. I like Standard and Guideline #16 - Provide a place for kids to play. Plan should be developed to manage bicycles in mountainous areas. Place greater emphasis on habitat improvements for endangered species. Need maximum firewood gathering because some animals would lose shelter People should be allowed to camp at a place as long as they want. Limit over-snow vehicles Protect fish. All aircraft wreckage should be removed.

Thank you for your comments. Firewood gathering is limited to designated areas. Management only gives priority to firewood over other forms of debris removal. Limits on camping are tied to projected demand for camping opportunities.

395/0147

I disagree with building new trails. It would mean cutting down trees to make room Upgrading commercial facilities seems wrong. More things to cause pollution. Why don't you fix up present roads first. Then, you might be able to build a new road or two. Encouragement to handicapped is great. Also great, is the preservation of endangered species.

Your input was considered in our analysis.

395/0148

It's good to protect nests and dens of sensitive species. Also, arranging harvest units and management activities to preserve nest and dens. #48 - Good to protect roost trees and feeding areas for bald eagles. Good to protect from fire also. #220 - Increase camp units. Then, camp areas won't be so crowded and more people can enjoy the outdoors. Lower boat speed limit from 0800 to 2000 from 40 to 35 mph. Some people take advantage of the 40 mph speed limit to race with other boats

Thank you for your support. Speed limits and other aspects of safety are developed jointly between the Forest and Madera County.

395/0150

Standard and Guideline #21 - How will you know if these changes take place? #53 - Temporary roads: Couldn't these roads be permanent? #74 - Who will pay to keep the stock driveways and travelways in useable condition? #62 - Would 100 feet across from the edge of streams, lakes and reservoirs be enough?

Changes are observed by trained personnel, such as botanists, soil scientists, and other environmental specialists. Logging roads and other features must be managed in ways that do not lend to habitat deterioration after the logging operations. Range permittees are responsible for maintaining stock travelways in good condition. However, riparian zones of 100 feet are standard until a project is planned for the area. During planning, environmental specialists investigate to determine if more than 100 feet is necessary to protect the riparian zone.

395/0151

Standard and Guideline #11 suggests a moderate increase in road and trail making. I don't think there should be, because there is a sufficient number of trails cleared for tourists already. S&G 71 suggests burning land and replacing most of the land. I feel that burning the land may get out of control

S&G #11 in the Draft Plan is intended to provide routes to areas that cannot be used as designated, because of inadequate access to the area.

S&G #71 in the Draft Plan is an acceptable procedure that is undertaken only with the approval of state and federal agencies that have responsibilities for adequate fire control and wildlife protection.

395/0153

I object to Standard and Guideline #7 because there are too many developed sites in the Forest now. You state that you want to provide more commercial influence in the forest. Why would you want to add to the corruption caused by the influence of commercial companies who are out to make a fast buck! In the fisheries and wildlife section, you say that you're going to focus more attention on cooperation with local landowners so they will understand how they can protect our wildlife. I'm pleasantly surprised with this new and insightful outlook.

See response to 395/0124.

395/0154

I would like very much to have parking and restrooms at snowplay areas. I really agree with protecting nests and dens of sensitive species. I agree with the Spotted owl Management Areas. I agree with Standard and Guideline #32, emphasizing habitat improvements. I also agree with #47, protecting the Forest's 6 superior nest sites for peregrine falcons.

Thank you for your support.

395/0155

Your idea of developing a bicycle/foot path around the lake is an agreeable decision to me. Letting disease infestations and insects run their natural course disappoints me. It might be too dangerous. Waiting for the bad effect of disease infestations, and insects to appear, and then taking care of them may be too late and risky

See response to 395/0116

395/0156

On Standard and Guideline 305, I agree with you on lowering the speed limit to 15 mph because I'm sure that there have been accidents because of the high velocity some boats travel on the water. I agree with you on #35 and #47 because of the same reasons and that is, protecting the habitats of certain kinds of animals

Thank you for your support.

395/0157

Increase fire prevention, presuppression, fuelbreak systems, and fire safety programs on forest lands. #255 - Construct a public day use site for picnicking, swimming and fishing in the Willow Creek area. Closing unneeded roads is good. #244 - I don't agree with the upgrading of commercial recreational services and facilities. Don't put more roads in the Forest. Manage bicycle use in mountainous areas outside of wilderness.

Limited expansion of commercial facilities benefit visitors without creating environmental problems. Limited road improvements enhance uses and administration of the Forest within broad goals of public benefits. Other roads are closed for similar reasons. Any use of vehicles, including bicycles, is scrutinized for impact on the Forest and controlled accordingly.

395/0158

I agree with Standards and Guidelines #'s 43, 47 and 48, the protection of deer, peregrine falcons and bald eagles. #51 - Don't build roads in key wildlife areas. #76 - Helping wildlife to do things like that #93 - Improving trees. #145 - Not fair to wildlife living in that area. #147 - A good rule, help to prevent freeloaders. #208 - A good way to control the wilderness. #214 - Just because it's a part doesn't mean it has no law breakers.

Thank you for your input and support.

395/0159

I agree hardly, that we should continue emphasizing opportunities for equestrian uses. I agree with providing parking and sanitation facilities for snowplay and cross-country ski areas. I agree with planting new trees if the number of trees falls below the number of trees needed to meet the regeneration standard

Thank you for your support.

I agree with minimizing all mining activity in the wilderness. I agree with prohibiting additional tables and benches, and maintenance to existing ones. I think this is good, because I don't think that's very important, and I think it will save money for other things. I disagree with increasing the developed sites by 7%.

Thank you for your input and support. The increase will occur in areas of intensive recreational use (Management Area 1), which occupies less than 7% of the Forest.

395/0161

Standard and Guideline #2 - Improve campgrounds by 2010 I think this should be accomplished sooner. #48 - Protect endangered species' habitat. #50 - It is very important to me, because I think the fish population should be plentiful at all times. #369 - Would prevent people from getting lost.

Thank you for your comments. Campgrounds and other facilities are scheduled for improvement based on budget priorities.

395/0162

Your ideas for more sanitation facilities is a very good one. They are important to have around all the parking areas If your new water system works out, it sounds wonderful Our water is very important and there are many concerns in the world for it. #35 is very good. Protecting nests and dens will help keep the population up and extinction down.

Thank you for your support.

Standard and Guideline #57 is an exceptional idea. I agree completely with #102. I like #113

Thank you for your support.

395/0165

I like Standard and Guideline #2. If a person was to get hurt on a trail, they might not want to come back. I also like #35. #43 is a good idea.

Thank you for your support.

395/0170

I agree that you should avoid conversion of prime farmland and forest range to other uses, as is stated in Standard and Guideline 151. If you convert more land like that to other uses, you can lose a lot of good area #179, 180 and 181 are very important. I also agree that increased control of insects and disease should be vital to the Forest Management Plan.

Thank you for your comments

395/0171

I like Standards and Guidelines 16, 25, 31 and 35

Thank you for your support.

395/0172

What is the reason for burning part of the Forest? I think we should have fewer trails for vehicles. Why the 15% increase in recreational equipment? Why are vehicles allowed on wilderness? What is "land-disturbing?" Why more ski and snowmobile areas? What is "special permit" use of water streams? Why bicycles? Aren't there enough vehicles permitted? What are fair conditions for the meadows when they are recovering?

Controlled fires enhance wildlife by promoting early seral stage vegetation. Vehicles are controlled to protect environment and wildlife in wilderness areas The S&G refers to dispersed recreation, which means that outdoor activities do not involve improved campsites and use of vehicles are limited to existing roads. Disturbed land is rock or soil that has been moved. Existing developed recreational areas will be allowed to develop to capacity before new areas are considered. Special permitted water use refers to water storage facilities Bicycles are used primarily in developed recreational areas. A fair condition for a meadow is when its composition is 25% primary species, and 25% secondary species.

395/0177

It is a good idea to put in new and better trails for horseback riding, and also for people who like to walk Improved paved roads also sounds like a good project One of the best ideas yet, is making it possible for handicapped and minority people to enjoy the park as much as everyone else. Putting in more facilities sounds like a terrific idea for the handicapped.

Thank you for your support.

395/0179

I believe a few of your plans need improving and need to provide more information pertaining to the main idea, holding more recreational activities. I believe that there are enough, and we should be more protective over the wildlife.

Most recreational activities take place in developed areas Further development is generally restricted to these areas.

395/0180

I think fire prevention plan, Standard and Guideline #210 is a great idea. It is a very good way to solve for the fires in the future. I think that we need more camp units. The Plan on pg. 4-39, #220, is the Plan that should solve this problem. On pg. 4-40, #226, I agree with your plan to prohibit floatable aircraft on the lake.

Thank you for your support.

395/0183

I like the fact that the Forest Service will provide more handicapped facilities in your parks. I feel that this is a very good idea. I also like your idea to decrease grazing of endangered plants in certain areas. I liked your proposal to make road improvements where they are needed. It would be wonderful to drive along a non-bumpy road.

Thank you for your support.

I disagree with your proposal to slaughter all sorts of insects in the area of people. There are birds and other animals that feed on these insects. I also disagree with your proposal to limit campground stays. A lot of us aren't RV drivers with pit bulls and yappy dogs. I thought it was unnecessary to keep criminal records, since there aren't many criminals who go to the woods to write on walls.

No program is planned for eradicating insects unless there is a serious problem. Limiting campground stays allows more families to enjoy the Forest environment.

395/0304

The timber volume sold must be studied and it must be proven that lumber is sold at a total profit, at least breaking even with all costs incurred. Air quality should have annual and seasonal monitoring and reporting periods. There is no money allocated to monitor trails, their conditions and campsite status.

Thank you for your comment. See response to 040/1369 for information on "below cost" timber sales.

During implementation, air quality will be monitored. In the near future we will be monitoring our Class I area to set a base from which we can assess management activities on these areas. There must be money assigned for trail monitoring, which is one of the major uses of this wilderness. We do annual condition inventories on most wilderness trails. Some of the less used trails are inventoried every third year. Wilderness rangers make individual assessments of dispersed campsites on a seasonal basis.

395/0464

Standard and Guideline #375 calls for snow survey sites and cabins to be removed from wilderness areas when snow courses can be correlated with areas outside of wilderness. Since the snow survey information is shared with other resource agencies this rule would impact more than just PG&E. This guideline should be removed. #226 will ban all float aircraft from all lakes and reservoirs in Management Area 1. We suggest it read "Float planes will be permitted for administrative purposes by permittees and only on designated lakes...." DEIS pg. 3-92, the source of water for Balch Camp is Black Rock Reservoir, not Wishon.

Wilderness policy is to remove snow survey sites and cabins.

There are only a few of the larger reservoirs on the Forest that could be used for float planes. Unfortunately for float plane advocates these lakes also have heavy recreation use. They also have excellent access which negates the necessity of float planes. All other lakes would not be considered, because they are in designated wilderness.

Thank you for your comments. The change will be made in the text.

There needs to be a discussion of climate. Plan should address/acknowledge the existence of weather, water and snow data collecting stations, availability of general isopleth maps, and lack of good climate information. The Sierra receives air flow from areas of poor air quality. Ozone and potential acid deposition become increasingly more evident.

Although the discussion in the plan did not specifically address climate, weather and snow/water collecting stations, these items were considered and are part of the background records.

395/1669

I need you to describe enforcement and control methods that are used.

Methods are described in the Forest's OHV plan, not in this document.

We wholeheartedly support the user pay concept for all resource use from range and timber to recreation and wildlife. This should be restricted to major developments.

Due to increased maintenance costs and diminishing Forest Service budgets, the Forest is shifting to the "user pay" concept. You can expect this to continue in the future.

396-SOCIAL/ECONOMIC/EMOTIONAL/PERSONAL COMMENTS

396/0357

I'm sure just about everyone living in our area enjoys our SNF, but I believe business and recreation can be accomplished.

Thank you for your response. We feel that timber harvest and recreation can both exist in the Forest.

396/0614

I am writing to express my feelings about the proposed management plan. I feel that it is unreadable.

This Plan along with other Forest Plans must meet Regional & National direction established by the Department of Agriculture. We are aware of the problems you speak of and are trying to simplify wherever possible.

396/1055

We recommend two positions for the Forest. They are Botanist - ecologist who would monitor sensitive plants, riparian zones, and Research Natural Areas. The second is a Range Conservationist who would oversee cattle stocking rates and monitor the effect on forage.

We agree with your first recommendation, and intend to fill a position of Ecologist/Botanist to administer the sensitive plant program and vegetation management program. The overall Range Management Program is administered by the Forest Resource Officer and his staff. The "on the ground" administration rests with the District Rangers.

396/1225

The foresight to preserve now will earn the gratitude of future generations who cannot act to protect their interests.

Thank you for your comments.

396/1308

I lived in Calaveras County for years and was shocked when I first saw the effect of damming the Stanislaus.

Hydroelectric projects are precluded on rivers that have W/S designation. Rivers that are not in the W/S system are analyzed on a case-by-case basis through an interdisciplinary analysis with public involvement.

396/1326

I also urge you to support the Conservation Alternative and designate the Upper Kern River Canyon as wilderness.

The Conservation Alternative was analyzed and the results can be found in section 2 of the FEIS. As a result of that analysis, many aspects of the Conservation Alternative have been adopted in our Preferred Alternative. The Upper Kern River Canyon is the management responsibility of the Sequoia National Forest.

396/1558

I am in favor of the plan affecting the entire western slope of the Sierra Nevada between Kings Canyon and Yosemite National Park

Thank you for your comment.

396/1804

I think the presentation of management areas and prescriptions in the Plan makes it excessive and unnecessarily difficult to find out what management is applied to what land.

The illustration for the direction tiering process has been clarified in the FEIS. This method gives the field foresters more flexibility to adjust the prescription on the ground.

I think this plan needs a lot of revision before you begin managing SNF with it. However, please do not throw out the points that I have praised in the revision.

Thank you for your comment

396/1835

Give the sawmills the timber they need to keep everyone going full speed ahead. I don't like restrictions of anything. Let's have the timber at a price that our future children can afford homes that we are enjoying today.

The Forest is managed on a multiple use/sustained yield strategy. We are trying to perpetuate the Forest for future generations. This is why we must manage the Forest.

397-EDITORIAL CORRECTION ON THE DOCUMENT

397/0060

On pg. 2-177, the discussion near the bottom regarding AMN makes the statement difficult to understand. "Emphasizing amenity values resulted in predicting significantly reduced developed recreational demand which had a negative effect upon PNV." Perhaps the faulty design of the amenities caused the drop in PNV, but emphasis of traditional amenities should result in increased recreation demand.

Management under the Amenity Alternative emphasizes nonmarket value such as dispersed recreation, wilderness, wildlife and fish habitat. Many developed recreation sites are located in riparian areas which are important for wildlife and fish. If this alternative was selected, it is likely some developed sites would be closed. Few, if any new developments or expansions would be permitted. If a major conflict developed between the amenity value and developed recreation, the amenity value would prevail. It is felt the demand for developed recreation would be met elsewhere.

397/0464

Kerckhoff Powerhouse has an installed capacity of 193 MW, not 34 MW. First power house for Crane Valley and dam at Bass Lake went into operation in 1896 before the date on pg. 3-106 of DEIS. Figure 3.05, pg 3-109 has a number of inaccuracies. Chilkoot Lake belongs to PG&E. Crane Valley Project should be listed as "project to be relicensed before 1990."

These changes have been made

Standard and Guideline #307 on pg. 4-45, proposes closing roads in the Courtright/Wishon Reservoir areas to "general two-wheel traffic upon project completion." We request substituting the term "activity" for "project "

We agree and have changed it

Standard and Guideline 256 encouraging licensee to correct erosion problems along Bass Lake shoreline prior to relicensing is no longer relevant. Extensive Erosion Control Plan for Bass Lake has been developed by PG&E in cooperation with the Forest and other resource agencies. Therefore, there is no need for #256.

The appropriate changes will be made in the text

397/0993

I believe the second paragraph on pg 3-19 of the Plan Sec 3.22 should read: "The potential for acid deposition research has shown that acid rain may be a relatively rare phenomenon in California, while dry acid deposition is a constant process".

The appropriate changes will be made in the text.

397/1002

Should there be a heading or title for the second column on pg. 2-28 (DEIS)? Standard and Guideline 3 in this discussion needs more detailed review. It seems to propose government control of private development . #10 is troublesome, and #11 needs clarification for the same reason mentioned under #3

LANDS should be the heading on the second column on pg. 2-28.

S&G #3 in the Draft Plan proposes control of unwarranted (unauthorized occupancies) community expansion upon adjacent Forest land. High density development should be encouraged on land less suitable for agricultural purposes. We have changed the wording to clarify the statement.

The wording in S&G #10 and #11 of the Draft Plan has been changed to clarify the statements.

Table 2 29 (DEIS), would be more meaningful if it included subtotals and totals.

These changes have been made.

DEIS pg. 4-105. Should the first word in the last sentence of the first paragraph be "though?"

This typographical error has been corrected

397/1213

Table C 06, Ten Year Timber Sale Action Plan, pg. 6-16: The Basin sale is shown in R.27E, it should be R 22E. (Although I wish it was in R.27E) It would save a lot of problems concerning Nelder Grove

Thank you for pointing out the error The sale has been modified because of the Spotted owl requirements The revised portion will appear in the ten year sale program.

Special Management Area, Plan pg. 4-11 within the present Nelder Grove boundary, there are 1,540, not 1,400 acres as stated. Certainly, the whole grove should be considered.

According to the 1972 Nelder Grove Resource Inventory Report, there are 1,434 acres Our numbers have been changed accordingly. The establishment report will be prepared after the Forest Plan is approved.

397/1581

In Table 2.24, (DEIS 2-143), apparently there are misplaced decimal points for wildlife and fish user days under Alternative H

Yes, there is a misplaced decimal. Thank you for bringing it to our attention. We have corrected it in the Final document.

397/1703

Under the preferred alternative, with 125 MMBF per year ASQ, the 10 year timber sale action plan on pp. 6-12 to 6-28 of the Plan shows an intended timber sale program that averages less than 100 MMBF a year, or only 80% of proposed ASQ. This spells doom for the existing North Fork sawmill and its forest-dependent community.

See response 392/1002.

397/1811

Throughout the Plan and DEIS, ORVs are incorrectly referred to as "off-highway vehicles" (OHVs). The Forest Service should not change their terminology for off-road vehicles (ORVs), to conform with the State of California. Executive orders, federal laws, and regulations refer to and define ORVs. Since the Forest Service is bound by these laws and regulations they should not confuse the issue by using terms not covered by federal regulations.

The change from ORV to OHV was a regional decision.

The disposition of roadless areas was not "resolved" by the passage of the California Wilderness Act of 1984. Public concern remains for de facto wilderness areas "released" by the California Wilderness Act of 1984. The issue of management of these "released" areas remains and was identified as an issue on page 1-7 (DEIS). While the California Wilderness Act of 1984 released eight areas from wilderness consideration in this planning period, Congress did not prohibit the Forest Service from considering any of these areas for wilderness.

We believe the disposition of the roadless areas was resolved. However, we agree that management of the areas has yet to be determined. We plan to use the Forest Environmental process, which includes an interdisciplinary resource team, and public involvement to determine management of each individual area. Public involvement will be initiated at the beginning of the proposed project.

The Wilderness Act of 1984 does not require "ensuring some measure of solitude" in a wilderness area. The act requires that a wilderness have "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation."

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. We have changed the paragraph you referred to.

Since the Plumas National Forest did not have any designated wilderness areas until 1984, we would like to know what data from the Plumas was used in determining capacity for the Sierra National Forest.

In early January of 1984 the Regional Office sent the Forest a paper entitled "Recreation Capacity and Demand Analysis", Plumas National Forest, Nov. 83. It was used as a guide for developing capacity and demand analyses for the Forest.

397/1817

The statement on pg. 4-93 of the DEIS needs to be corrected. Under the effects of WSR on hydro development for Alternative E it is stated, "This is by far the most restrictive alternative." This is simply untrue. The difference between Alternative A and E is minimal.

We have added a statement to the Amenity Alternative to clarify this statement.

I was confused by two tables in Appendix E. In Table E.05A (pg. 7-120)

Segment 4 of the Merced is recommended for scenic status in Alternative A, which seems to be inconsistent with Table E.03A. In Table E.05F (pg. 7-145), Segment 2 of the South Fork San Joaquin is recommended for "scenic" status in some alternatives and for "wild" status in others. As this segment is within the John Muir wilderness the scenic recommendation seems to be unexplainable. There are similar unexplained discrepancies in Segments 3 & 4.

Scenic designation of Segment 4 was an error. It has been changed to "recreational" designation. We agree that Segment 2 is eligible for "wild" designation. The initial recommendation as "scenic" was made by the Forest management team. After this river is designated a WSR by Congress, the

Forest will prepare a Comprehensive Management Plan, and eligibility as a "wild" segment will be reconsidered at that time.

Figure 3 05 and Table N.01 need to be reconciled. There are projects marked in the figure that are not listed in the table

The items you mentioned have been changed

398-FORPLAN

398/1071

I understand that FORPLAN contains oversimplifications and inaccuracies which adversely effect its prediction ability. Trees don't grow as fast as the Plan projects, and there is no allowance for unforeseen factors such as fire and drought

Timber yield tables for existing and future timber stands used in FORPLAN were developed from measured growth and mortality in existing timber stands on the Forest. Methods used to project future growth rates are based upon the existing literature in the field of forest mensuration. FORPLAN model explicitly contained estimated loss to fire. Loss due to endemic mortality is included in the timber yield tables.

398/1533

CHEC found the following problems in the Plan: 1) Timber prices are too high. 2) Price trends are unrealistic. 3) Suitable timber base is too large. 4) Timber yield tables are unrealistic. 5) Species cross-subsidization violates Forest Service policy. 6) Planning in cubic feet will cause future declines in board foot sales. 7) Returns on timber investments are unacceptably low. 8) Grazing alternatives are hardwired 9) Most Spotted owl yield tables provide an incentive for old growth. (Please see input #1533)

1) and 2) See response to 398/1591

3) When FORPLAN runs with price trend data and runs without price trend data were compared, timber volumes did not change This demonstrates that price trends are not causing acres to be retained in the suitable timber base.

4) The growth used in the RAM PREP computer model is growth that has been measured within this Forest. This model predicts an increased growth rate of 1-2%, which the Forest does not consider unrealistic.

5) Cross-subsidies violate Forest Service policy. Decreasing the minimum price for one species to offset low or negative value of another species is a common practice in California. The fact that this has been done does not automatically mean Forest Service Policy is being violated. CHEC analysis was incomplete and therefore not completely accurate CHEC's analysis did not take into consideration that cost the government would have to incur to remove these lower value trees separately where the land management objectives for the site requires their removal When these costs are included, nearly all the sales comply with the tract value policy. While the compliance to the tract value policy may be debated for the few remaining sales, maximizing dollar returns from each timber sale is a project level decision and is where the determination of policy compliance should be made. The planning analysis conducted for the Forest Plan indicates that the cash returns are expected to exceed costs in each of the 10-year period of the Plan. The 1987 and 1988 test of the Timber Sale Program Information Report System (TSPIRS) supports that expectation.

6) Your comment is based on the misconception that the Scribner Log Rule, used to assign board foot values to individual logs for payment, predicts actual wood content of these logs. The reality is that the Scribner Log Rule underestimates small log board-feet and overestimates large log board-feet, as revealed by sawmill studies. These discrepancies are adjusted by the use of overrun factors in the timber sale appraisal process The cubic-foot measure is used in growth and yield estimates for planning because this measurement is not biased by product output expectations. Logs

do not have to be sawn into 1-inch thick lumber by a 1/4 inch saw kerf as the Scribner Rule assumes. Actually, logs do not have to be made into lumber at all. They may well be processed to produce any combination of plywood, chipboard, flakeboard, or paper. The Scribner board-foot is currently used because it is accepted by the timber industry. It is obviously obsolete, needing correction factors as it does, and will eventually be phased out. Finally, NFMA calls for cubic-foot measurements in forest planning estimates.

7) The 4% interest rate is used because it approximates the long-term costs of capital in the private sector as measured by AAA corporate bonds after adjustment for inflation. Timber prices are realistic in view of recent price trends. Many values, including monetary returns, are realized from regenerating harvested stands.

8) The grazing alternatives were formulated by setting upper limit constraints based on the theme of the alternative. These limits were then tested by FORPLAN. The model did not attempt to maximize grazing throughout the Forest. This is apparent when the range of alternatives (25,000 AUMs in Alternative E to 54,000 AUMs in Alternative I) is considered.

9) The FORPLAN model was constrained to ensure at least 21,000 acres of suitable habitat will be available for owls at all times. This means that SOHAs cannot be entered until replacement stands meet SOHA requirements. Normally, stands over 140 years old meet these requirements.

398/1591

I see the use of the computer program FORPLAN to be a problem. There is no way the projected timber yields can work without causing more harm than good. Please reconsider and check the prices used in the computers for various types of timber. They are a lot higher than the prices actually paid in sales on the Forest.

The Forest estimates timber prices for the life of the Plan, based on the average for the period 1978-1982. Prices have not yet recovered from the 1982 recession. However, prices have escalated in recent years and are reasonable in light of recent trends. Prices will be monitored during implementation of the Plan, and extreme changes in market prices may lead to the need to amend the Plan. See Appendix B

398/1694

I wish to applaud your recommendations in the Sierra FORPLAN. I've spent a lot of time working and playing on the Kings River above Pine Flat Reservoir. Let's keep it as it is.

Thank you for your support.

398/1719

FORPLAN projects short-term yield that cannot be sustained, resulting in the waste of our Forestlands and resources, for short term gain. This over harvest would result in destruction of wildlife habitat and recreation, loss of watershed, soil erosion, siltation of streams, loss of fish, and fishing and flood danger.

FORPLAN results are carefully evaluated and the FORPLAN model is constrained where the need is indicated by our experience. We will closely monitor the implementation of the Plan and will amend it, as needed. See Plan, Chapter 5.

398/1730

Concerning timber harvest, the Plan's use of FORPLAN and price computer projections are pretty far-fetched. The marginal forests and the red fir should be preserved until such time as they prove profitable. The suitable timber base can better relate to that which can be cut in the next 50 years rather than what is pressured for in the next 10 years. Timber growth tables are inflated, failing to account for hazards year after year. Plan carefully for the Conservative timber harvesting to sustain the forest.

The Forest plans to offer sales programs as scheduled in the Plan, but will not make up sales deficiencies by cutting more valuable species if red fir sales do not sell. In recent years, all of our sales have been profitable. See response 398/1591 concerning timber prices.

398/1783

Implementation of FORPLAN requires a differential selection of data, such that significant conditions in the field may not be accounted for. Assumptions regarding the effects of benchmarks and alternatives require field verification, particularly where nonmodeled, nonpriced benefits are concerned. Gathering of pertinent data and understanding of forest resources is an ongoing process.

The Forest intends to monitor the implementation of the Plan closely. Where indicated by field conditions, the Plan will be amended.

400-PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

400/0361

I would hate to see the lobbying of small interest groups dictate to the Forest Service what should be done to the public land

Interest groups do not dictate to the Forest. However, we try to be responsive to public needs and invite public comment from everyone

400/1528

Information in the DEIS describing the Affected Environment needs to be widely dispersed

The Forest Service mailed approximately 1,500 copies of the DEIS to interested individuals. We also held eight public meetings, two public hearings, and made presentations in Madera, Mariposa and Fresno Counties.

400/1531

I suggest you announce your public meetings, not just enough to meet your legal requirements, but enough so that those wanting maximum protection of our forests will know when these meetings are taking place. I declined to speak, because I could not address important issues in five minutes or less.

Newspaper, radio, and television stations in Fresno, Madera, and Mariposa Counties received press releases about the public meetings. Public interest was high, so we felt that a 5-minute speaking limitation would enable more people to speak. We will consider your requests when future public meetings are called.

400/1669

Several sections of the Plan describe evaluation, review, amendments, and revisions to the Plan. Some of these reviews are annual. Will the public be notified of the results of these actions?

The public would be notified if there were significant changes from what was stated in the document.

400/1817

The Tahoe National Forest publishes a quarterly bulletin which details all major projects proposed on that Forest. It includes timber sales, road construction, hydroelectric projects, etc. This publication is very useful to those who wish to be involved in the ongoing management of the forest. I don't know if the Sierra publishes such a bulletin, but if not, it should.

The Sierra National Forest does not publish such a bulletin now, but is being considered for future use. Thank you for your suggestion

410-PLANNING PROCESS

410/0085

In many sections of the Plan it becomes obvious that the Forest is operating as an autonomous organization without regard to the cumulative effects that may result from activities proposed on adjacent forests or on the other forests in California. For this reason the SFDTAC recommends that none of the Forest Plans be approved until the cumulative effect of all the Plans can be studied.

The Regional plan known as the Regional Guide, gives the broad direction from which each Forest in the Region gets its direction. The Forest Plan takes the planning effort one step further and provides the Forest with more specific direction. Likewise, the Central Sierran Forests have coordinated on many strategies for the various resources during this planning effort.

420-MULTIPLE USE CONCEPT

420/0544

With only a small percentage of the Forest that can be harvested, there is plenty of space for owls and other wildlife. Too many people with wives, husbands, and children depend on the industry. Plus stores of all kinds.

With so much wilderness and National Park Land, why ruin the lives of many people.

It would be nice if each resource used different pieces of the Forest. This would make for fairly easy management. However, this is not the case. Spotted owls require dense oldgrowth forest for habitat, and this is also some of our best timber. Thus we have the conflict to which you refer. We are preparing individual Spotted Owl Habitat Area Management plans so as to determine how timber management and spotted owls can exist together on the same piece of the Forest.

420/1002

DEIS, pg.1-1- The discussion of the legislative framework is strangely silent about the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act (MUSY). It seems fairly clear that NFMA is legislation designed to implement MUSY. This discussion should be expanded to recognize that relationship.

The chronology of legislation listed on pg.1-1, is specifically related to what led up to Land Management Planning. Since the MUSY Act was implemented well before 1974, there is no direct mention of it in this chronology, although multiple use is mentioned several times in the discussion.

While we support concepts of multiple-use and sustained-yield as guiding principles for management of the National Forests, we cannot and will not support forest management plans which permit our country's timber resources to go to waste

We do not agree that the Forest Plan wastes current timber resources. We do agree the Plan results in foregoing some technically feasible future growth.

420/1702

Sequoia Forest Industries believes that these 394,000 acres must be managed primarily for timber production.

Your preference was considered in making our decision. There are trade-offs between higher levels of timber production from the suitable, capable and available timber lands and effects on water, fish, wildlife, visual, recreation, local employment and local government finances. All of these effects are described in the EIS and were considered in making the decision.

420/1840

I've seen some of the timber sales we have up there and some of the harvest I'm quite ashamed of the mess that it's left up there. I don't blame the loggers for it; I blame the Forest Service. We have lost the Multiple Use concept totally

If you are inferring we should not have logged some particular area, that may be true. We have made some mistakes in isolated areas, but generally speaking we have done a good job over most harvested areas. Our interdisciplinary process analyzes each project area to determine proper management. Thus, we feel we practice good multiple use management.

420/1841

Again, the key to the Management Plan should be multi-use and not multi-restriction.

The Forest believes Alternative A gives a good balance of noncommodity and commodity outputs while practicing good multiple use management.

430-FURTHER PLANNING AREAS

430/0226, 1358, 1533, 0005, 0283, 0084, 0207, 1212, 1579, 1708, 0406, 1498 & 1010

Increase roadless area designations.

We do not have any more areas that fit the criteria of R.A.R E. II. The strategies were all decided in the 1984 California Wilderness Bill except one, Kings River "B," which is now the new Kings River Special Management Area designated by Congress in November 1987. The management of the new area will be very similar to that of wilderness.

430/1412

The plans to maintain several released areas (formerly designated as wilderness) in their natural (roadless) condition are to be commended, but Merced Canyon, Mt Raymond and Dinkey Creek should also be maintained.

Released areas were not formerly designated wilderness. They are areas that have been formerly considered for wilderness and are released back to multiple use management. There are no formal plans to maintain released areas in their natural condition. However, each project within the areas will have an environmental analysis completed before any project is implemented.

431-KINGS RIVER FURTHER PLANNING AREA

431/0230

Support Wilderness designation for KRRRA 49m acres and trail building and maintenance.

See response to 430/0226

431/0349

I am opposed to Alternative D and any other alternative which will make the Kings River B Further Planning area a wilderness area.

See response to 430/0226.

Plan pg. 2-2 states "This plan recommends that the Kings River B Further Planning Area be managed primarily for range and wildlife purposes." I can support that, but it should also include "Prospecting and Mining."

See response to 430/0226

431/0540

Our membership recommends wilderness designation for the 10,000 acres in the Kings River drainage, or at least keep it a roadless area.

See response to 430/0226 & 360/1230

431/0741

We ask that Upper Kings Canyon be designated as WSR.

See response to 360/1230.

431/0851

The Upper Kings River Canyon should be designated as wilderness and should not be clearcut for timber harvesting.

See response to 430/0226.

431/1222

I support the addition of Unit 63, part of the Kings River Further Planning Area to Wilderness. The area is defacto wilderness and is likely to remain so due to its escarpment factor.

See response to 430/0226

431/1230

I support the WSR recommendations, and hope you will include Upper Kings Canyon as wilderness

See response to 430/0226 & 360/1230

431/1413

We hereby request that you include as much of upper Kings River watershed as possible for wilderness designation. We suggest wilderness designations downstream to the Garnet Dyke Campground, or further, if it does not cause problems for fire protection.

See response to 430/0226 & 360/1230

431/1418

All released roadless areas should be managed entirely for nonmotorized dispersed recreation. No timber harvesting should take place

See response to 430/0226.

431/1467

Kings River Further Planning Area is unique because of winter accessibility, the lack of woodland chaparral wilderness in this region of California, and a unique river which has been given the Wild Trout designation by the State of California.

See response to 430/0226.

431/1537

Kings River Further Planning Area - At stake here is one of the largest rivers flowing from the Sierra, in a wild canyon that is said to be the deepest in North America. Part of this region was included in John Muir's original Kings Canyon National Park proposal. It is hard to believe that this grandiose landscape has suddenly become as commonplace and devoid of interest as the description in Appendix C (DEIS) would indicate.

See response to 430/0226 & 360/1230.

431/1581

We understand that the Forest Service has now discharged all responsibility for the further planning of Area B5-198, pursuant to the California Wilderness Act of 1984. Why then, does the Forest present two alternatives (D & E), which include all, or portions of B5-198 as proposed Wilderness? This is inconsistent with the statement in the DEIS (3-25).

See response to 430/0226

431/1695

I support Wilderness status for the entire Kings River Further Planning Area. You should at least set aside the eastern one third of the area for Wilderness designation (east of Garlic Spur and Converse Mountain)

See response to 430/0226.

431/1700

We disagree with the Forest Service's recommendation that the Kings River Further Planning Area be managed for removal of chaparral. The KRFPFA must be fully protected to ensure maintenance of water quality, fisheries, and watershed value for the Kings River. The KRFPFA is unique, because it contains the deepest canyon in North America. The KRFPFA provides winter accessible recreational opportunities which are rare in other Wilderness.

See response to 430/0226 & 360/1230

431/1718

CSKR finds Alternative E the most satisfactory from its viewpoint. The CSKR strongly urges adoption of our "Wilderness Dispersed Rec." alternative for the KRRA.

See response to 220/1533.

It is the CSKR's position that boundaries between 63 and 64 of the KRRA be changed from Garlic Spur to Fox Canyon, and the area above receive a Wilderness designation with remaining area to be managed as "dispersed recreation - no timber harvest." This recommendation is similar to Alternative E, with a slight modification in the Western Wilderness boundary. According to DEIS, demand for dispersed recreation exceeds capacity, and the demand for wilderness will exceed supply in approximately 20 years.

See response to 430/0226 & 360/1230.

431/1775

I support a wilderness recommendation for all of the KRRA. I also note that this National Forest did recommend the eastern half of this area for wilderness in the past. The Appendix should describe the reasons that caused the Forest Service to change its mind. I am opposed to type conversion of any part of this roadless area.

See response to 370/0210.

431/1806

Why does the Further Planning Area of Kings River B retain motorized recreational opportunities? There should be no vehicular travel or any other uses which compromise its future uses.

See response to 430/0226.

431/1812

A revised Forest Plan should include substantially more proposed wilderness in the Kings River Planning Area and all the "released" roadless areas including Devil Gulch and Dinkey Lakes.

See response to 430/0226 & 370/1811

431/1817

The major flaw with the amenity alternative which prevented me from endorsing it was the fact that the entire Kings River Further Planning Area was not recommended for wilderness

See response to 430/0226

432-DINKEY CREEK FURTHER PLANNING AREA

432/0316 & 1395

I support the Conservation Alternative. I like the fact that it includes limiting the Dinkey Creek corridor to developed family and youth - oriented camp area.

See response to 209/1533.

432/0989 & 1812

I strongly feel the Forest Plan should have recommended wilderness status for Dinkey Creek, San Joaquin B and Rancheria roadless areas. Each has its own unique beauty which is not necessarily well represented in already designated wilderness on the Forest.

See response to 209/1533 and 375/0989.

432/1705, 0017, 1212 & 1672

It is good that Dinkey Creek area is designated as "dispersed recreation - no timber harvest". I think that the Dinkey Creek corridor should also be designated as a developed family and youth oriented campground area. Protect it from future destruction by possible dam construction. Merced Canyon should have designation of "dispersed recreation - no timber harvest", since any timber harvest would result in disqualification of an area for future wilderness designation

See response to 375/0989 and 361/1533.

440-BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

440/0178

Why shouldn't cedar snags be used to meet the prescribed snag densities?

Research literature and professional observation indicate there is little to no use by primary cavity nesters of cedar snags as a component of their habitat.

440/1005 & 1669

The reseeded of skid trails, temporary roads, and landings should be done, to the extent practical, with native species of plants. Exotic plantings should be de-emphasized.

Although planting native species is desirable in some cases, the availability of a seed source is limited and expensive. However, many nonnative plants have proven to be valuable to wildlife and soil stabilization.

440/1313

The Plan relies on several tools for dealing with the issue of maintaining natural diversity. One of these is the use of MIS. Indicator species do not adequately represent all rare animal species or plants. Quantified objectives must be established to maintain viable populations of all sensitive plant and animal species. We believe that all candidate species for federal listing present in the Forest should be included in the Plan so further reductions in number do not occur and subsequent listings do not become necessary. The Plan must be amended to define which types and stages of

vegetation are targeted, how many acres of each will be maintained, and what active management technique will be used to ensure maintenance of this acreage

MIS are used because their population changes are believed to indicate the effects of management activities and because they represent vegetation types and seral stages and/or special habitat elements necessary for all fish and wildlife species in the forest. Some sensitive species were not used as MIS because 1) their distribution is very limited or unknown, 2) inventories of important habitat components are not available and there would be no way to predict impact of management activities, or 3) their habitat is predicted not to significantly change. For plants, manual and handbook direction is to maintain viable populations for all alternatives. Plants have very localized occurrence/habitat requirements and would not serve well as MIS. Just because a species is not chosen as an MIS does not mean it receives less management.

440/1475

We think you should research the slash pine forest in Florida regarding fast growing pines, and their marketability in the timber industry.

Thank you for your comment. Another division of the Forest Service is responsible for research in productivity of these species.

440/1654

Reseeding, with just a few selected species, will eventually transform today's forests into tomorrow's tree farms. This entire planned program renders the slogan, "Land of Many Uses," meaningless. Species of flora and fauna could disappear, denying them their rightful place in their ecosystem.

Generally, it is our policy to reseed or replant those species that were there naturally. Only in special areas, such as developed recreation, would unnatural species be planted.

440/1669

We need to see more uneven-aged management than is proposed in the current Plan. With the proposed amount of clearcutting, it is doubtful that the Forest can come close to achieving biologically reasonable levels for downlogs, snags, plant species diversity, and structural diversity.

Thank you for your input. Thirty-five thousand acres of uneven-aged management have been added to the Preferred Alternative. In addition, the FEIS will contain one alternative that has uneven-aged management as its major silvicultural system.

S&G 40 doesn't define the scale of measurement for "overall" diversity. The scale must be smaller than the entire forest, or needs for wildlife species will not be met.

Please refer to Chapter 5 of the Plan, which lists the monitoring needs for diversity. Vegetative diversity will be determined by each management area.

440/1716

The Forests often represent the final place where many facets of biological diversity can be preserved in a natural, self-sustaining manner. CNPS wants to emphasize the value of this management opportunity and point out that future generations may look to our Forest for the last substantial reserves of California's once common forest landscape. Diversity is a special concern of CNPS. Our primary goals are to promote maintenance of existing native species diversity, and the promotion of rare plant species. The Plan provides for maintenance of diversity in terms of structure and age of communities, not the biological diversity which needs to be addressed further.

Biological diversity is addressed in many S&Gs in the Plan. Maintaining tree species diversity is part of the Regional tree improvement program. The Forest Service is required by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 to maintain viable populations of existing native and desired nonnative vertebrate species and plants. Diversity will be maintained through near natural areas (Wilderness, WSR, RNA, SIA) and managed ecosystems (timber, range, fire, fish and wildlife management.)

440/1843

Only with forest management practices based on unbiased scientific studies, coupled with unfailing stewardship of forest land, will we retain the botanical heritage of California's Sierras.

Thank you for your comment.

450-OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

450/1825

The National Park Service and the BLM working so closely on a Plan is something I feel should be emulated. To find three federal agencies working together, is something I know we need to see more of

Thank you for your support



**T.5
LETTERS FROM PUBLIC AGENCIES, ELECTED
OFFICIALS, SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND FOREST
SERVICE RESPONSES**

**T.5.1
Introduction**

Following are copies of entire letters received from public agencies, elected officials and school districts. Each comment of each letter has been numbered. Immediately following each letter are the Forest Service responses that have been correspondingly numbered to each comment in the letter. All responses are maintained in the planning records in the Supervisor's Office, 1130 "O" Street, Fresno, California.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Region, HCB
777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

September 17, 1986

F/SWR33:JRB

Mr. James L. Boynton
Sierra National Forest
Federal Building, Room 3017
1130 "O" Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Boynton:

Thank you for providing the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) an opportunity to review and comment on the "Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Sierra National Forest, 1986."

1

The NMFS is responsible for preserving and enhancing anadromous fish resources and the habitats that support these resources. We reviewed the material you provided and determined from the information that anadromous fish do not occur within the Sierra National Forest boundaries. Therefore, we have no comments on the draft report.

Sincerely yours,

James R. Bybee
Environmental Coordinator
Northern Area

FOR COPY
SIERRA NATIONAL
FOREST

SEP 22 1986

ACTING MANAGER

cc: FWS, McKeivitt
CFG, Lollock

F SUPV _____
DF SUPV _____
AD _____

REC _____

L & E _____
RANGI _____

TIN _____

FM _____

EPG _____

LAWS _____

IT _____

REC. SECS _____

DI _____

G. S. _____



ltr. 0004

**UNITED STATES OF DEPARTMENT COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RESPONSES:

Thank you for your comments.

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors



JOAN J. LYNK
Executive Aide
P O. BOX 784
MARIPOSA, CALIFORNIA 95338
(209) 966-3222

DISTRICT 1 .. BEVERLY BARRICK
DISTRICT 2 . EUGENE P. DALTON, JR
DISTRICT 3 ERIC J ERICKSON
DISTRICT 4 . LEROY RADANOVICH
DISTRICT 5 . . . GERTRUDE TABER

GERALD McCARTHY
County Clerk/Ex-officio Clerk of the Board
MARGIE WILLIAMS
Deputy Clerk of the Board
P O Box 247
MARIPOSA, CALIFORNIA 95338

October 17, 1986

Mr. Iri Everest
Sierra National Forest
1130 "O" Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Everest:

1

Please enter into the record my endorsement for the retention of dirt bike rights on the existing trail from Iron Mountain down to the South Fork of the Merced River. It is vital that, in our efforts to accommodate the desires of environmental groups, we do not abrogate the rights of other groups to their use of this world. Their needs and desires also must be carefully considered.

Sincerely,

BEVERLY BARRICK
Supervisor, 1st District



Mariposa County Board of Supervisors



JOAN J. LYNK
Executive Aide
P O BOX 784
MARIPOSA, CALIFORNIA 95338
(209) 966 3222

DISTRICT 1 . BEVERLY BARRICK
DISTRICT 2 . EUGENE P. DALTON, JR
DISTRICT 3 . ERIC J. ERICKSON
DISTRICT 4 LEROY RADANOVICH
DISTRICT 5 . GERTRUDE TABER

GERALD McCARTHY
County Clerk/Ex-officio Clerk of the Board
MARGIE WILLIAMS
Deputy Clerk of the Board
P O Box 247
MARIPOSA, CALIFORNIA 95338

December 29, 1986

Forest Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
1130 "O" Street, Room 3017
Fresno, California 93721

Re: Response to Sierra National Forest Resource Management Plan

Attn: LMP

At its meeting of December 9, 1986, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors took action to support Alternative "A" of the proposed Management Plan for the Sierra National Forest, with the following modifications -- (the modifications are consistent with previously adopted Board policy):

- 2 A. (1) That there be no designation of the South Fork of the Merced River, and that a five-year moratorium be enacted and further studies made of the effects Wild and Scenic designation would have on Mariposa County. (See Exhibit 1 and 2)
- 3 (2) That the main body of the Merced, from Parkline to Briceburg, be placed under the Wild and Scenic Act, with recreational status. (See Exhibit 3)
- 4 (3) That the Merced River be left undesignated from Briceburg to Lake McClure. (See Exhibit 4)
- 5 (4) That the Plan include the recommendation that Mariposa County be included in the management planning and implementation of all Wild and Scenic designations.
- B. That there be carefully outlined guidelines for monitoring/policing off-road vehicle uses adjacent to private property, and for on Forest Service land. (See Exhibit 5)

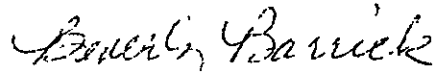


Forest Supervisor
Re: Response to Management Plan
December 29, 1986
Page two

- 6 C. That you specifically protect the rights of recreational dredging on the Merced River.
- 7 D. That there be no quotas placed on rafting on the Merced River, but that the program continue as in the present mode.
- 8 E. That law enforcement costs and capabilities be clearly outlined (continuation of the contract with Mariposa County for a Sheriff's deputy to patrol the Merced River during the tourist season is strongly recommended by the Board). (See Exhibit 6)
- 9 F. Section F, entitled "Timber", be modified to reflect the Board's support of maintaining the timber alternative contained in Alternative H. (See Exhibit 7)

Your consideration of the above is appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact the Board if we can provide additional information.

Very truly yours,


BEVERLY BARRICK, Chairman
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

BB:rw

Enclosures - Exhibits 1 through 7

cc: Mariposa County Planning Department
Irl Everest, District Ranger, Mariposa District
Mariposa County Sheriff's Department

ltr. 0056

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Mariposa, California**

RESPONSES:

1 The decision to determine the future of bike use on the Iron Mountain Trail was not made in this Plan. This decision will be made in the yet to be completed OHV Plan and/or the Comprehensive Management Plan on South Fork Merced River.

2 The Preferred Alternative recommended the Merced River from El Portal to Briceburg be classified "recreation." The final disposition of these segments will be determined within the Comprehensive Management Plan. Federal agencies have the authority to implement these classifications after public, state, and private reviews.

3 Merced River has been left as "undesigned" from Briceburg to Lake McClure.

4 Federal, state, county, public groups, and private citizens will be invited to be involved in the management (implementation) planning process for W/S Rivers. Many federal, state, and environmental groups have been involved in preparing the Wild and Scenic River sections in the draft LMP

5. Monitoring and policing OHV use will be an important consideration in the Forest's OHV Plan, scheduled to be completed by 1992. The Board will have an opportunity to provide input to the Plan.

6. Recreational dredging on Merced River is protected in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended by P.L. 99-590. Specific guidelines for recreational dredging will be recommended within the specific management (implementation) plan.

7. Any quotas placed on rafting activities will be determined at the specific management (implementation) planning process and reviewed within monitoring guidelines, usually every ten years.

8. Law enforcement and all other management/operational potential costs will be analyzed during the management (implementation) planning process.

9. Raising the ASQ to 160 MMBF was carefully considered. To raise the ASQ would result in more land designated for timber harvest and in fewer protective measures for other natural and social resources.

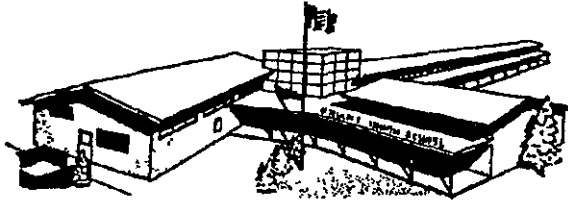
The ID team considered input from many respondents who presented their reasons why the ASQ was too high. They said budget levels to produce this level of harvest are unrealistically high and saw an undesirable subsidy to the timber industry because revenues would not match costs to the government. There was objection to using pesticides to maintain long-term sustained yield, harvesting timber on land only marginally capable of intensive forest management, maintaining resources such as soils, watershed, wildlife habitat, visuals, and open space that needs close attention and protection, and timber products receiving too much emphasis. They request more land be assigned to resources other than timber production.

Arguments from the public opposing your resolution are presented here to emphasize the fact that the land base of the Forest cannot meet all the demands expressed by the public.

The final ASQ is a carefully weighed balance between maximizing timber production on lands capable and suitable for growing timber and protecting other values and resources. The Forest believes that an increase in the ASQ would result in an unacceptable risk and impact on other values and resources. Conversely, a reduction of the ASQ would result in an unnecessary reduction in the Forest's capability to produce timber on a sustained basis that provides jobs and supports businesses.

Board of Trustees

Eules Grigsby - President
 John Lane - Vice President
 Steve Roberts - Clerk
 Jim Durando - Member
 Gerald Sharp - Member



Rowland R. King, Ed., D.
 Superintendent

Friant Union School

Box 223

FRIANT, CALIFORNIA 93626

209-822-2232

October 30, 1986

Mr. James Boyten
 Forest Service Superintendent
 Sierra National Forest
 1130 "O" Street
 Room 3017
 Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Boyten:

1 The Governing Board of Friant Union School District has given me authority to write you this letter in opposition to the proposed Forest Service Resolution reducing the maximum allowable timber cut by approximately 18%.

We understand that the Hearing for this is November 13th, but that it is being held in the evening. Unfortunately we have a Governing Board Meeting at the same time. I would appreciate it if you would allow this letter to be placed in opposition to the Resolution reducing the maximum allowable timber cut.

We are a small Elementary school being a part of the larger Sierra Union High School District, and every reduction in funding sources hurts our already "bare bones budget". This in turn hurts the students' educational opportunities, hence our opposition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Rowland R. King, Ed. D.
 Superintendent

cc: Mr. Cliff Sparrow, Superintendent
 Sierra Elementary School District

We are an EOE and an Affirmative Action Employer

ltr. 0072

FRIANT UNION SCHOOL

RESPONSE:

Your preference for a higher ASQ to help finance schools was considered during our final analysis. There are trade-offs between the higher levels of timber production in Alternatives C and H and the Preferred Alternative. These trade-offs include effects on fish, wildlife, soils, water, riparian zones, visual and recreation resources, local employment and local government finances including the financing of schools. All of these effects are described in the EIS and were considered in our analysis. Your letter and many others stated current harvest levels are too low and if the ASQ is not raised, revenues to counties will decline.

Other respondents gave diverse reasons why the ASQ under the Preferred Alternative was too high. They claim the budget needed to produce that level of harvest is

unrealistically high and gives an undesirable subsidy to the timber industry because revenues would not cover costs to the government. There were strong objections to clearcutting, pesticides and harvesting timber on marginal timber land. They also point out the potential adverse effects of timber harvesting on resources such as Soils, Watershed, Wildlife habitat, and Riparian zones. They request more land be assigned to resources other than timber production.

The views on ASQ are divergent. Some argue for jobs, families, businesses and schools, while others argue for resources such as Soil, Fish, Wildlife, Riparian zones and Visual quality. It is the Forest's responsibility to analyze all values and needs, then select an ASQ that provides a balance between maximizing timber production on lands capable and suitable for growing timber and protecting other values and resources. The Forest has confidence the final ASQ meets that balance.



State of California
Board of Forestry

1416 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

**Southern Forest
District Technical Advisory Committee**

November 10, 1986

James L. Boynton, Forest Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
Federal Building, Room 3017
1130 "O" Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Boynton:

Re: Sierra National Forest Draft Plan

The Southern Forest District Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the Sierra National Forest Draft Plan at their regularly scheduled meeting November 6, 1986. Representatives from the Sierra National Forest were on hand to explain the details of the Plan. Following the presentation, the SFDTAC developed a position statement as indicated below. Our comments are based on the eleven land use activities that were displayed on the chart that was used by the staff of the Sierra National Forest during their presentation to the Committee. The comments of the Committee members took into account the interest and concerns that were summarized in the Centennial Action Plan as follows:

- I. Rural economic stability and development;
- II. Protection and maintenance of the biological base;
- III. Social pressures on the rural land base;
- IV. Rights and responsibilities of public and private ownership; and
- V. Coordination of planning.

1. Recreational/Visual....The Committee supported the recommendation which proposed moderate increases in the dispersed and developed recreation. These increases may have a positive effect on several of the Centennial issues such as adding to rural economic stability and satisfying some of the social pressures on the land base. However, increased recreation could potentially threaten the biological base due to the impact of forest users. There is also a minor impact from this activity on private

landowner rights where there is competition from private individuals who are providing the public with recreation for a fee. However, the plan somewhat mitigates this impact by offering concessionaire opportunities in leasing campgrounds, ski areas, and other forest owned facilities.

The Committee finds that the plan does not show a coordination of planning with other forests in the area or with private recreation facilities in its approach to the recreation issue.

2

Visual restrictions recommended in the Draft Plan would adversely effect timber productivity and the Committee found that there would be a negative effect on each of the Centennial issues. Sierra Forest should seek opportunities to practice uneven-aged management within the areas that are shown in the Plan as requiring restrictions due to their visual significance.

3

2. Wilderness....SFDTAC supports the recommendation in the PRF that adds no additional wilderness acres to the Sierra National Forest. This is due to the fact that the Sierra already contains over 500,000 acres of wilderness which affects a significant amount of the land base.

Since the PRF proposes no additional wilderness, the Committee finds that there would be no increased effect on any of the five Centennial issues.

4

3. Wild and Scenic Rivers....The Committee recommends that a very careful study should be made of this issue before the Sierra moves to lock up opportunities to use the resources contained within the areas proposed for wild and scenic river designation. The Committee members are familiar with several proposed hydroelectric projects that may be adversely impacted by this designation such as the El Portel, Jackass Creek, Granite Creek and South Fork Merced River projects.

As proposed in the PRF, the Committee finds that the recommendation to increase wild and scenic river designation on the Sierra National Forest from zero miles to 225 miles would have an adverse impact on rural economic stability and development since local communities would be precluded from benefiting from future potential hydroelectric, mineral and other possible developments. Likewise, the other Centennial issues would be adversely affected.

5

4. Fish/Riparian Habitat....The PRF shows moderate increases in fisherman use of the Sierra Forest and the Committee supported this concept. However, it was noted that riparian requirements would tend to reduce the volume of

available timber approximately 5.25 MMBF per year. Opportunities should be sought by the Forest to increase utilization of the areas designated for riparian protection. It was also noted that the Forest lacked an effective program for monitoring the changes that occur on riparian habitat over time. The Committee recommended that a system should be set up to monitor changes in vegetation species composition in addition to the present system of monitoring the animals and birds that exist in this habitat type.

The Committee finds that consideration should be given to their comment regarding utilization of timber volumes locked up in riparian habitats in order to reduce potential negative impacts to rural economic stability and the other Centennial issues.

6

5. Wildlife Habitat/Diversity.... The Committee disagreed with the PRF in the proposals to provide 18 non-managed habitats for the Spotted Owl. The Committee learned that approximately 7.25 MMBF of timber productivity would be lost due to the provision of restricting harvesting in an area of 1000 acres for each pair of owls. Members found that the information on the needs of the owls was lacking and recommended that further study should be done on the Spotted Owl issue. The study should address the habitat needs and viable population levels on a Statewide basis rather than be restricted to any one national forest recognizing that National Parks and wilderness areas already exist to provide habitat in an unmanaged condition which may be suitable for the owls.

7

The Draft Plan proposes an oak retention of 10% crown cover in general forest and 20% in critical deer areas. The Committee feels that this retention is unnecessarily high and discovered that the provision to leave this level of oak would result in the loss of 2.5 MMBF of timber productivity per year. The Committee recommends that oak retention be set at a level of 5% and 10% respectively in those areas that are suitable for conifer management.

In summary, the wildlife habitat/diversity recommendations in the Draft Sierra Plan would have a negative impact on each of the five Centennial issues. More consideration must be given to the economics of committing such large amounts of resources to the maintenance of wildlife special in deference to commodity outputs.

8

6. Range/Chaparral....The Committee noted the Plan called for a moderate increase in animal unit months on the forest. They also learned that there were no demands by grazing permittees for additional increases in a.u.m.'s. With this in mind, the Committee supported the Plan's proposals for moderate increases in a.u.m.'s and increases in the amount

of acreage proposed for prescribed fire. It was noted, however, that the Plan, as written, fails to comply with the legislation which requires the Forest Service to provide an inventory of public rangeland conditions and trends. Specifically, the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Action of 1974 (Sec. 5), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Sec. 201a), and Public Rangeland Improvement Act of 1978 (Sec. 4a) all require that said report be made available to the public and be kept current on a regular basis so as to reflect changes in range conditions. The DTAC recommended that more emphasis needs to be put on monitoring the rangeland conditions and trends in order to be sure that the current level of grazing and any future increased levels do not adversely impact the health of the rangelands on the forest.

In summary, the Committee found that the activities proposed in the Range/Chaparral communities on the Sierra would have no major impact on any of the five Centennial issues.

- 9
7. Timber....It was noted that the PRF recommends a high percentage of even-aged management and the Committee found this to be commendable since it was a more efficient way of harvesting timber. However, the allowable cut which has been set at 125 MMBF was found to be badly lacking and would result in unemployment and instability in local communities dependent on forest revenues. The Committee recommended that the reduction in allowable harvest should be made up by more intensive management of areas that were set aside for riparian, wildlife habitat and visual needs.

The Committee recommended that the Sierra National Forest revise the PRF so that the average annual allowable timber harvest be maintained at a level equal to the output of the last ten years; i.e., 136 MMBF. The volume could be increased by utilizing areas currently set aside for riparian, wildlife and visual preservation.

10

The Committee also discussed Table 5.01 in the Draft Plan which specified a monitoring program for keeping track of the annual timber harvest volumes. The Sierra intends to monitor the volume at the end of the first five years of the Plan and would be satisfied to be within 15% of the annual harvest at that time. The Committee felt that this was not a strict enough goal and that if the Sierra was this far off in their harvesting program, that it could adversely effect local communities and employment.

The Committee recommended that the monitoring level on timber harvesting volume be reduced from plus or minus 15%

in five years to 5% in five years in order to emphasize the importance of maintaining the level of harvest because of the potential adverse impact to the stability of rural economies.

In summary, the Committee found the PRF would have a significant adverse impact in all areas outlined in the Centennial Action Plan unless it were modified as suggested by motions shown above.

- 11 8. Soil/Water Quality....The Committee commended the Draft PRF in its goal to maintain and improve the soil and water quality on the forest.

They found there would no impact on the five Centennial issues.

- 12 9. Geology/Minerals....The DTAC noted a reduction in the proposed number of mining claims on the forest, however, this reduction was due to the state of the economy in regards to mineral exploration and mining activity was not limited in any way by restrictions incorporated into the Draft Plan. The Committee supported the PRF and found that there would be no impact on local communities as a result of the Draft Plan.

- 13 10. Special Management Areas....The Committee supports the recommendation in the PRF to increase the research natural areas and other special interest areas on the Sierra National Forest. Several of these areas are already in established wilderness areas and the remainder are placed where they should not adversely effect timber outputs.

The Committee finds that increasing special management areas as suggested in the PRF would not have a significant detrimental impact on any of the five Centennial issues.

- 14 11. Transportation....The Committee noted that the road system on the Sierra was pretty well in place already and that new construction was not needed to access timber areas. The Draft Plan called for a reduction in the number of miles of roads to be constructed or reconstructed. However, the Committee pointed out that these miles would need to be increased in order to meet the DTAC's goal of increasing timber production to the 136 MMBF level. Otherwise, the Committee supported the PRF in the area of transportation.

- 15 12. Other General Comments....In many sections of the Plan, it becomes obvious that the Sierra is operating as an autonomous organization without regard to the cumulative effects that may result from activities proposed on adjacent forests or on the other Forests in California. For example, when the Sierra Plan discusses economic benefits that are derived from the forest as they impact

local communities, there is a failure to recognize the benefits that come from other National Forests located in the same area. In order for the Board of Forestry and the general public to be able to comment on the Plan, they really need to be informed of the overall impact of all the Plans on a Statewide basis. For this reason, the SFDTAC recommends that none of the Forest Plans be approved until the cumulative effect of all the Plans can be studied.

16

Additionally, the economic analysis in the Plan appears to be inadequate and NEPA contains requirements for an improved analysis of the impacts of the Plan and the Alternatives on the local economy. Such an analysis should also include inter-relationships with other forests and with private industry operating in the same area. It would be helpful to see the impact of the Plan and the Alternatives on private timberland owners who possess the same commodities in competition with the National Forest.

17

Finally, the DTAC noted that the discussion in the Plan on forest protection activities is lacking. The elements of fire protection and insect and disease prevention is basic to the protection of the maintenance of the biological base and these activities deserve a much more thorough analysis. Fire prevention and suppression activities must be coordinated with the State, other agencies and other National Forests.

In summary, the DTAC supported the PRF with the exceptions noted in the discussion above. If the recommendations of the Committee are accepted, there would be an increase in the scheduled harvest volumes over the life of the Plan due to an increased level of harvest in areas currently designated for riparian, visual and wildlife preservation. The result of recommendations made by the DTAC would be to stabilize rural economies, provide better opportunities to maintain the biological base, be more responsive to social pressures and employment, be more responsive to the rights of public and private ownership and would greatly increase the coordination of planning.

Sincerely,

Roy L. Killion
Secretary - SFDTAC

By 

Norman W. Cook
Alternate Secretary

NWC: rmd
cc: SFDTAC Members

**State of California
BOARD OF FORESTRY
Southern Forest District Technical Advisory Committee**

RESPONSES:

1. The Forest's charge was to plan for 1,300,000 acres Planning efforts in recreation primarily stayed within the boundaries of the Forest.

2. Uneven-aged management is one strategy considered for foreground views from sensitive roads, developed recreation areas, and other sensitive viewsheds. Two alternative plans have been included, revised Alternative A and Alternative E which now contains 30-50% uneven-aged managed forest.

3 Thank you for supporting the Preferred Alternative, which adds no additional wilderness to the Forest. The California Wilderness Act of 1984 has already added 227,778 acres to the Forest, with an overall total of 527,938 which is about 40% of the current land base Additionally, about 49,000 acres have been designated as a recreational Special Management Area by Congress in 1987, and will be managed similar to wilderness areas.

4 A careful study has been made of the 227 miles of potential W/S Rivers. Socioeconomic conditions were analyzed for each river recommendation Yosemite National Park, Sequoia-Kings National Park, Inyo National Forest, Stanislaus National Forest, and the Bureau of Land Management were involved for river segments outside the Forest boundaries No adverse impacts were found.

5 Management requirements for riparian areas emphasize protection of riparian-dependent resources The ID team's decision indicated that harvesting more than 4% per decade would adversely affect riparian-dependent species.

6 Based on current information, 1,000 acres of suitable habitat is needed to maintain a breeding pair of Spotted owls The Forest agrees that further studies are needed and are participating in region-wide monitoring of Spotted owl populations. Managing timber in SOHAs is permissible where 1,000 acres of suitable habitat is provided for in all time periods Many SOHAs are located in places like Wilderness and Nelder Grove, where they have little or no effect on ASQ

7 It is unfortunate that you do not support the oak retention standards. This standard was accepted in the ID team decision-making process It does not meet all timber

management expectations nor does it meet all the needs for wildlife management. Both timber and wildlife interests were well represented in all ID team meetings. This decision should maintain acceptable wildlife habitat yet produce fairly high timber yields The economics of the ASQ decision was a major public issue and is discussed in a separate section.

8. Thank you for your support of increased AUMs and increased acreage for prescribed fire. Allotment management plans contain inventories of range conditions and trends. The Forest Service updates this information periodically as management plans are revised These plans are available for review by the public.

9. The trade-off between ASQ and more intensive management in riparian wildlife habitat and visual areas was carefully considered

10 The purpose of monitoring is to focus on indicators that suggest when the entire Plan needs review. In other words, if the amount of timber sales during that five year period is plus or minus 15%, the whole plan is reviewed and revised, if needed. A variance of 5% would not be enough to warrant this effort and expense. However, the Forest shares your concerns and has developed internal systems to ensure the ASQ is met

11, 12, and 13 Thank you for your support.

14. The transportation system will be developed to adequately have access to the harvestable timber. If the ASQ was raised, more miles of road construction would be included in the Preferred Alternative.

15 The regional plan known as the Regional Guide provides the broad framework of direction for each National Forest. The Forest Plan takes this planning effort one step further and provides the Forest with more specific direction The central Sierra Nevada Forests have coordinated various strategies for resource use and protection during the planning effort.

16 A revised economic analysis will be included in the final EIS It will address the impacts of the ASQ on the local economy, other forests, and private industry. Please see Appendix L in the Appendices volume.

17. The planning records and supporting documentation contain a more detailed analysis related to fire protection, and insect and disease problems The discussion in the Plan is based on this. In the Preferred Alternative there is increased effort for cooperation with all agencies responsible for wildland management.

BIG CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Box 98, Big Creek, California 93605

Phone: (209) 893-3314

November 12, 1986

Mr. James L. Boynton
Forest Supervisor
Federal Building, Room 3017
1130 "O" Street
Fresno, California 93721

Reply to: 1950

Dear Mr. Boynton,

School Trustees of the Big Creek School District wish to respond to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan in regard to timber sales and the alternatives proposed in the plan.

1 It is the opinion of the school trustees that there is an obvious balance which recognizes a LTV and balance for future years neither impacts the area with clear cutting, etc., environmentally and reduces the harvest in future years, nor impacts individuals, companies and agencies financially by harvesting below a level which the area can support. It appears that the 140 to 150 million board feet annually harvested was within that balance, however, we believe it would be prudent to ask the U.S. Forest Service for this analysis. This study should project what the financial impact would be. For example, if a reduction from the current 152 million board feet to the proposed 125 million or 18% reduction would impact.

In conclusion the forest is our local environment and we want it managed for now and the future in the most efficient manner. We believe the U.S. Forest Service should provide these figures and the proper balance for the present and the future.

Respectfully,


Edwin B. Swanson
District Superintendent

EBS/mf

ltr. 0176

BIG CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESPONSES:

1. The DEIS and FEIS analyze both financial and environmental impacts of a range of alternatives. The final ASQ is a lower timber production level than envisioned in the DEIS (125.6 MMBF annually) and lower than the

historical average (133 MMBF), because it responds to changes in management direction that provide greater protection to other resources. It also recognizes designation by Congress of timberland into wilderness. Timber management will be conducted on 328,900 acres of the Forest's 393,700 acres identified as tentatively capable, available and suitable for timber production.

Thank you for your comments and interest in the Sierra National Forest.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS
 THREE RIVERS, CALIFORNIA 93271

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7619(WR-RP)

November 12, 1986

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region

From: Superintendent, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Subject: Sierra National Forest, Land and Resource Managemnt
 Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Our comments on the subject plan and DEIS are essentially limited to proposals that could affect the Park resources or visitor experience. There is little potential for significant effect on Park resources, values or visitors. The reasons for this are that most of the western boundary of Kings Canyon National Park joins the Sierra National Forest and all of that portion of the Sierra National Forest is designated wilderness. Therefore, even though some consumptive uses (grazing, etc.) are allowed on the part of the Forest next to the Park, management there is generally quite similar to management of the Park.

PLAN

- 1 Page 2-1 Under Wild and Scenic Rivers, a major issue not listed is which segments of rivers will be proposed for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System.
- 2 Page 3-5 We endorse designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of those portions of the South Fork of the San Joaquin and Middle Fork of the Kings that are located in these Parks. We would also encourage consideration under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of those portions of the same river systems not located in the Park.
- 3 Page 4-50 Item #368 proposes new trail construction. We recommend coordination with NPS on any trails that would have an effect on the use of Kings Canyon National Park.
- 4 Page 5-1 We see no indication of a monitoring program for the effects of backcountry use. We would encourage a monitoring program because it would enhance the interagency efforts toward consistent management of wilderness areas in the Southern Sierra.

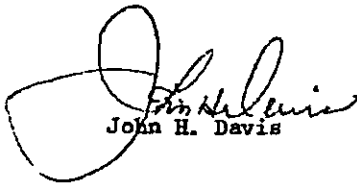
DEIS

- 5 Page 2-30 The 1,000 acre cutoff for fire confinement/containment on unbroken fuels seems nebulous. What is the definition of unbroken fuels and how do they relate to fire behavior and unnatural amounts of fuels? Perhaps this will be explained in a fire management action plan.
- 6 Page 2-42 The section on wilderness includes 30 miles of new trail construction by 2030. The impacts of that trail construction should consider possible effects to Kings Canyon National Park for any that are located nearby.
- 7 Page 2-42 The section on Wild and Scenic Rivers states that the South Fork of the San Joaquin and Middle Fork of the Kings Rivers will be proposed for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. We endorse these designations for the portions within the Park and are pleased to see the sections outside the Park also proposed. We note that Chapter 3 (page 3-38) does not include a description of the affected environment for the Middle Fork of the Kings River.
- 8 Page 3-28 The next to last paragraph indicates that prescribed fire will be used. In Chapter 4 under Wilderness on page 4-37, the effects of prescribed fire are described. There is no indication of any limitation on the use of prescribed fire. We assume that there will be a fire management plan which will provide guidance for the use of prescribed fire. Any prescribed fire program in areas that could affect the Park should be coordinated through the cooperative procedures currently in place.
- 9 Page 3-43 We would be happy to cooperate with the Forest Service where our funding and manpower permit toward studies and projects to enhance several of the Species of Special Interest including Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, Goshawks, Spotted Owl, Willow Flycatcher and Mule Deer. We note that Chapter 4, page 4-45 indicates that all of the alternatives include continuation of grazing which will have adverse effects on willow flycatcher habitat. Preliminary studies done in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks indicate that areas used by livestock have higher populations of cowbirds which have a direct adverse effect on willow flycatchers. We urge further study and consideration of modifying grazing programs where possible to enhance willow flycatcher habitat.
- Page 4-38 Again we note and endorse the proposal to designate the South Fork of the San Joaquin and Middle Fork of the Kings under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This is proposed in all but Alternative B, the no action alternative.

Page 4-44 Once again we are interested in the Species of Special Interest as mentioned above.

Page 4-54 In all of the alternatives we recomend consideration of the willow flycatcher habitat in range management programs.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the Plan and DEIS.



John H. Davis

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service**

RESPONSES:

1. Consideration has been given to rewriting the issue to read, "Which segments of the rivers that were identified in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory of January 1982 will be analyzed for eligibility classification and recommended for inclusion and managed under the Wild and Scenic River Systems?"

2. In the draft LMP the Forest considered over 225 miles of potential W/S Rivers including sections of South Fork San Joaquin and Middle Fork Kings, located within lands managed by three national forests, two national parks, one national monument, the Bureau of Land Management, the State of California and some private lands. The Forest will manage about 73 miles of those recommended potential W/S Rivers within their administrative boundaries.

3. It is Forest's practice to coordinate with adjacent landowners, whether private, state, county, or federal agencies, prior to any development that might affect or impact them.

4. Backcountry use is currently monitored along with other recreational activity. Specific monitoring of this type is not part of the Plan. However, backcountry use is expected to be reviewed as wilderness quotas and management plans are revised.

5. The 1,000-acre cutoff was chosen because of an analysis of wilderness related to existing fuels in the wilderness, best judgement on fire behavior if those fuels were to be ignited under average weather conditions, and the personnel needed to monitor or suppress fires. Unbroken fuels is when an area contains layers such as slash, duff, or standing trees in such a way that if a fire were to sweep through, there would be nothing to stop it. A broken fuel is one that is segmented by a road, ridge, or rock outcrop to stop a fire from continuing.

6. Coordination with Kings Canyon National Park will take place prior to any new trail construction that might affect the Park.

7. Thank you for endorsing these recommendations. DEIS Chapter 3 does not include a description of Middle Fork Kings River, but it is the same description found in the Appendix. It was labeled North Fork Kings River instead of Middle Fork Kings River. This error will be corrected.

8. Prescribed fire will be addressed in the implementation phase of the Plan in Fire Management Action Plans.

9. Your offer of assistance is appreciated. You will be contacted when the studies begin. The S&Gs for riparian zones have been modified to better protect wildlife habitat. Protection measures such as the regulation of the timing and distribution of grazing and structure controls will be planned and implemented. Several projects to improve Willow flycatcher habitat are planned, and at least two should be completed in fiscal year 1989.

MADERA COUNTY

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

W. E. Sturk, Acting
Air Pollution Control Officer

• 135 WEST YOSEMITE AVENUE
• MADERA, CALIFORNIA 93637
• (209) 675-7823

December 2, 1986

Mr. James L. Boynton, Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
1130 "O" Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Boynton,

Our analysis of the various alternatives of the Proposed Sierra Forest Plan lead us to conclude that each of the alternatives has its strong and weak points depending on an individual's point of view. We believe it would be unfortunate to over emphasize (to detriment of other legitimate needs and uses) any one point of view.

Consequently, we urge the adoption of an alternative that neither tends to lessen or destroy the perpetual enjoyment of the National Forest or the economic benefits of its resources.

- 1 We believe C-RPA and H-MKT come closest to reasonably satisfying the needs and desires of the citizens of Madera County — both plans offer an acceptable middle ground.
- 2 A - PRF would be acceptable except that our town of North Fork and its lumber mill probably could not survive the effects of the restricted lumber availability during the period of 1987-1995.

Sincerely,



W. E. Sturk
Acting APCO

WES/dh

**MADERA COUNTY
Air Pollution Control District**

RESPONSES:

Your preference for Alternative C and H was considered during our final analysis. There are trade-offs between the higher levels of timber production in Alternatives C and H and the Preferred Alternative. These trade-offs include effects on fish, wildlife, soils, water, riparian zones, visual and recreational resources, local employment and local government finances. All of these are described in the EIS and were considered in our analysis.

Your letter and many others stated current levels of harvest are too low, and if the ASQ was not raised to approximately 160 MMBF, the revenues to Madera County would decline. Other respondents gave diverse reasons why the ASQ in the Preferred Alternative was too high. They claim the budget needed to produce that level of harvest is unrealistically high, and gives an undesirable subsidy to the timber industry because revenues would not cover costs to the government. There were strong objections to using pesticides, clearcutting and harvesting timber on marginal timber land. They point out the potential adverse effects of timber harvesting on resources such as Soils, Watershed, Wildlife habitat, and Riparian zones. They requested that more land be assigned to resources other than timber production.

Timber industry advocates claim this amount is insufficient to support mill operations at levels like those favorable conditions experienced in 1986, 1987, and 1988. Should favorable market conditions continue for an extended period, uncut timber under contract will continue to decline and this will lead to increased competition and prices.

The impact of increased competition will not spread evenly among the five mills that have been purchasing timber from the Forest. The least competitive mills will reduce operations before those with better locations and more efficient equipment and operations.

The general pattern of mill closures in California indicates that mills located in mountain locations are at a competitive disadvantage to those located in the Central Valley. The highway network allows mills located in the valley to haul logs from a broader supply area than mills located in the mountains. Hauling logs from a larger supply area also allows mills to expand and take advantage of economies of scale.

As competition increases, a mill such as the North Fork mill, rather than the other mills now purchasing the Forest's timber, is more likely to reduce operations. This is a consequence of its mountain location and exclusion from small business set-aside areas available to the Madera and Sacramento mills. The Auberry, Dinuba, and North Fork mills are under single ownership, and during periods of market weakness, the owners historically have curtailed operations at the North Fork mill first. Although an investment in a cogeneration plant makes this mill more cost effective, the mill is still less efficient than the other mills. Cogeneration provides a small edge or cancels the disadvantage of the mill's poor location. Based on the history of this area's mill operations, the Forest would have to provide 137 MMBF ASQ to the local mills in order to provide the North Fork mill with sufficient timber at prices that would allow it to remain competitive.

A loss of timber-related employment opportunities in the foothill area is possible over the next 15-25 years even if the Forest could sustain annual harvests in the neighborhood of 150 MMBF. This decline would occur as a consequence of more efficient capacity added to mills in more favorable locations and increased competition from mills outside the traditional market area. Additional information on the regional timber demand status has been added to the final EIS as Appendix L.

The views on ASQ are divergent. Some argue for jobs, families, and businesses, while others argue for resources such as Soil, Fish, Wildlife, Riparian zone, and Visual quality. It is the Forest's responsibility to weigh all values and needs and select an ASQ that provides a balance between maximizing timber production on lands capable and suitable for growing timber and protecting other values and resources. The Forest has confidence the final ASQ meets this balance.



CITY OF REEDLEY

POLICE SERVICES
843 G STREET
REEDLEY, CA 93654-2697

CITY HALL
845 G STREET
REEDLEY, CA 93654-2698

PARKS AND RECREATION
100 N EAST AVENUE
REEDLEY, CA 93654-3103

TELEPHONE
209 638-6881

CITY COUNCIL
DR LAWRENCE R WILDER
MAYOR
EMERY L. HUEBERT
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE
CHARLES Y TAGUCHI
RAY SOLENO
CHRIS W. CROISSANT

December 3, 1986

Mr. James L. Boynton, Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
1130 "O" Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Boynton:

1 The City of Reedley would like to respond to the Sequoia National Forest Management Plan now that it is out and plans are underway to implement the plan. It is our understanding that the preferred alternative selected by the Forest Service would reduce timber harvesting by 20%. This alternative was selected despite a Forest Service figure showing that timber volume could actually be increased by 25%.

2 Sequoia Forest Industries is a very good neighbor of our City, furnishing employment for many Reedley citizens. We are very concerned with the impact of your Forest Management Plan on Sequoia Forest Industries. Employment and the related effect it has on our Community is very important. Your very serious consideration of this Management Plan should take into account the effect on the local economy. Actions such as your Management Plan can have a very serious effect on our Community's economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Butch
City Manager

TMB:eav

cc Sequoia Forest Industries

86-141

CITY OF REEDLEY

RESPONSES:

1 Your preference for increasing the ASQ was considered during our final analysis. There are trade-off between the higher levels of timber production in Alternatives C and H and the Preferred Alternative. These trade-offs include effects on fish, wildlife, visual, and recreation resources, local employment and local government finances. All of these effects are described in the EIS and were considered in our analysis.

2 Your letter and many others stated that current levels of harvest are too low, and if the ASQ was not raised, revenues to timber dependent local communities would decline.

Other respondents gave diverse reasons why ASQ under the Preferred Alternative was too high. They claim the budget needed to produce this level of harvest is unrealistically high, and gives an undesirable subsidy to the timber industry because revenues would not cover costs to the government. There were strong objections to using pesticides, clearcutting and harvesting timber on marginal timber land. They point out the potential adverse effects of timber harvesting on resources such as Soils, Watershed, Wildlife habitat, and Riparian zones. They requested more land be assigned to resources other than timber production.

Timber industry advocates claim this amount is insufficient to support mill operations at levels like those favorable conditions experienced in 1986, 1987, and 1988. Should favorable market conditions continue for an extended period, uncut timber under contract will continue to decline and this will lead to increased competition and prices.

The impact of increased competition will not spread evenly among the five mills that have been purchasing timber from the Forest. The least competitive mills will reduce operations before those with better locations and more efficient equipment and operations.

The general pattern of mill closures in California indicates that mills located in mountain locations are at a competitive disadvantage to those located in the Central Valley. The highway network allows mills located in the valley to haul logs from a broader supply area than mills located in the mountains. Hauling logs from a larger supply area also allows mills to expand and take advantage of economies of scale.

As competition increases, a mill such as the North Fork mill, rather than the other mills now purchasing the Forest's timber, is more likely to reduce operations. This is a consequence of its mountain location and exclusion from small business set-aside areas available to the Madera and Sacramento mills. The Auberry, Dinuba, and North Fork mills are under single ownership, and during periods of market weakness, the owners historically have curtailed operations at the North Fork mill first. Although an investment in a cogeneration plant makes this mill more cost effective, the mill is still less efficient than the other mills. Cogeneration provides a small edge or cancels the disadvantage of the mill's poor location. Based on the history of this area's mill operations, the Forest would have to provide 137 MMBF ASQ to the local mills in order to provide the North Fork mill with sufficient timber at prices that would allow it to remain competitive.

A loss of timber-related employment opportunities in the foothill area is possible over the next 15-25 years even if the Forest could sustain annual harvests in the neighborhood of 150 MMBF. This decline would occur as a consequence of more efficient capacity added to mills in more favorable locations and increased competition from mills outside the traditional market area. Additional information on the regional timber demand status has been added to the final EIS as Appendix L.

The views on ASQ are divergent. Some argue for jobs, families, and businesses, while others argue for soil, fish, wildlife, riparian zone, and visual quality. Our responsibility is to weigh all values and needs and select an ASQ that provides a balance between maximizing timber production on lands capable and suitable for growing timber and protecting other values and resources. The Forest has confidence the final ASQ meets this balance.

SACRAMENTO ADDRESS
STATE CAPITOL 95814
TELEPHONE (916) 445-7559

DISTRICT OFFICES
1711 FULTON MALL - SUITE B14
FRESNO CA 93721
TELEPHONE (209) 364 3079

512 N IRWIN, SUITE A
HANFORD, CA 93230
TELEPHONE (209) 582-2869

3191 M STREET SUITE A
MERCED, CA 95340
TELEPHONE (209) 384 1194

Assembly California Legislature

COMMITTEES
CHAIRMAN
WATER PARKS & WILDLIFE

MEMBER
HOUSING & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
ELECTIONS & REAPPORTIONMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES

JIM COSTA

ASSEMBLYMAN THIRTIETH DISTRICT

December 3, 1986

James L. Boynton
Forest Supervisor
1130 O Street
Fresno, California 93721

Dear Mr. Boynton:

I am writing in regard to the proposed Timber Harvesting Plan for the Sierra National Forest.

I represent western Madera County in the California State Assembly. I am concerned, therefore, on any federal decisions which might have an adverse impact on the local economy. A constituent has written my office expressing concern that a reduction in the number of board feet allowed for harvest could reduce the number of jobs in Madera County related to the timber harvest.

Please consider balancing the economic needs of the region, as well as the environmental concerns of the Forest Service, when proposing a new Timber Harvest Plan for the Sierra National Forest.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



JIM COSTA
Member of the Assembly
30th District

JC:br

JIM COSTA
California State Assembly
Thirtieth District

RESPONSES:

Your view towards balancing the economic needs of the area as well as environmental concerns were considered during our final analysis. There are trade-offs between the higher levels of timber production in Alternatives C and H and the Preferred Alternative effects on fish, wildlife, soils, water, riparian zones, visual and recreational resources, local employment and local government finances. All of these are described in the EIS and were considered in our analysis.

Your letter and many others indicate concern that current levels of harvest are too low, and if the ASQ was not raised revenues and employment in Madera County would decline.

Other respondents gave diverse reasons why ASQ under the Preferred Alternative was too high. They claim the budget needed to produce this level of harvest is unrealistically

high, and gives an undesirable subsidy to the timber industry because revenues would not cover costs to the government. There were strong objections to using pesticides, clearcutting and harvesting timber on marginal timber land. They point out the potential adverse effects of timber harvesting on resources such as Soils, Watershed, Wildlife habitat, and Riparian zones. They requested that more land be assigned to resources other than timber production.

Timber industry advocates claim the amount of harvest in the Preferred Alternative is insufficient to support mill operations at levels like those favorable conditions experienced in 1986, 1987, and 1988. Should favorable market conditions continue for an extended period, uncut timber under contract will continue to decline and this will lead to increased competition and prices.

The views on ASQ are divergent. Some argue for jobs, families, and businesses, while others argue for soil, fish, wildlife, riparian zone, and visual quality. Our responsibility is to weigh all values and needs and select an ASQ that provides a balance between maximizing timber production on lands capable and suitable for growing timber and protecting other values and resources. The Forest has confidence the final ASQ meets this balance.

SACRAMENTO OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 5086
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95814
(916) 445-4641
DISTRICT OFFICE
120 W TULARE
DUNDA, CA 93618
(209) 591 5005
DISTRICT OFFICE
2002 N GATEWAY
FRESNO CA 93727
(209) 445-5541

California State Senate



ROSE ANN VUICH
STATE SENATOR
FIFTEENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
FRESNO AND TULARE COUNTIES

December 1, 1986

COMMITTEES
CHAIR BANKING AND
COMMERCE
AGRICULTURE AND WATER
TRANSPORTATION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
JOINT COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR RULES
FAIRS AND ALLOCATIONS
THE ARTS
CHAIR SOLID AND HAZARDOUS
WASTE
RURAL ISSUES
RURAL CAUCUS
FOREST LAND ISSUES

Mr. James L. Boynton, Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
1130 O Street
Fresno, Calif. 93721

Dear Mr. Boynton:

1

My staff and I have studied in detail the proposed Forest Management plan for the Sierra National Forest. After considerable discussions on the matter, I would like to recommend alternative H-MKT to be the plan. I do not support a reduction in the present timber sale allowance, which, as I understand, is approximately 150 MM feet per year. Your analysis shows that 170 MM or so would still support a sustained yield. The H-MKT plan would allow approximately 160 MM feet per year, so would not only give a margin to you, but would also support the mills in the area.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

ROSE ANN VUICH

RAV:et

Itr. 0339

ROSE ANN VUICH

State Senator

RESPONSES:

Your preference for Alternative H was considered during our final analysis. There are trade-offs between the higher levels of timber production in Alternative C and H and the Preferred Alternative including effects on fish, wildlife, soils, water, riparian zones, visual and recreational resources, local employment and local government finances. All of these are described in the EIS and were considered in our analysis.

Your letter and many others stated that current levels of harvest are too low to support mills in the area. Other respondents gave diverse reasons why ASQ under the Preferred Alternative was too high. They claim the budget needed to produce this level of harvest is unrealistically high, and gives an undesirable subsidy to the timber industry because revenues would not cover costs to the government.

There were strong objections to using pesticides, clearcutting and harvesting timber on marginal timber land. They point out the potential adverse effects of timber harvesting on resources such as Soils, Watershed, Wildlife habitat, and Riparian zones. They request more land be assigned to resources other than timber production.

Timber industry advocates claim the ASQ in the Preferred Alternative is insufficient to support mill operations at levels like those favorable conditions experienced in 1986, 1987, and 1988. However, should favorable market conditions continue for an extended period, uncut timber under contract will continue to decline and this will lead to increased competition and prices.

The views on ASQ are divergent. Some argue for jobs, families, and businesses, while others argue for soil, fish, wildlife, riparian zone, and visual quality. Our responsibility is to weigh all values and needs and select an ASQ that provides a balance between maximizing timber production on lands capable and suitable for growing timber and protecting other values and resources. The Forest has confidence the final ASQ meets this balance.

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

Agronomy and Range Science Extension

Mailing Address
Agronomy Extension
137 Hunt Hall
University of California
Davis, California 95616

James L. Boynton, Forest Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
1130 "O" St.
Fresno, CA 93721

November 17, 1986

Dear Jim,

Through the public review process for the Proposed Sierra National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan we pointed out the weaknesses of the proposed monitoring program for Range and Riparian ecosystems. Your range management staff has requested that we respond in writing and present our solutions to the monitoring problem.

1

Continuation of cattle and recreation stock use on the Sierra National Forest requires that its impact on the range and riparian resources be monitored. Monitoring of: (1) actual use of livestock, expressed in AUM's; (2) forage utilization on higher elevation perennial grasslands and mountain meadows expressed in pounds per acre residual dry matter or based on weight-weight relationships; (3) trend on areas with perennial forage species, expressed as changes in species composition using species frequency; and (4) residual dry matter on lower elevation annual grasslands must be integrated. With this information objective decisions can be made which will ensure the protection and maintenance of the biological base and stability and development of the rural economy.

DEC 11 1986
ACTION: []
I SUPV []
OF SUPV []
AD []
REC []
I & C []
RANGE []
TM []
FM []
ENGR []
LANDS []
PR []

Monitoring programs proposed in the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan are monitoring of:

- 1. Livestock use (AUM's)
- 2. Forage utilization

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University of California and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating

We urge you to utilize these resources in implementing a trend monitoring program to complement the monitoring programs identified in the proposed Forest plan.


The important parameter to be monitored on annual grasslands is the amount of residual dry matter left on the site. It is the residual dry matter which provides favorable microenvironments for early seedling growth, soil protection, adequate soil organic matter and a source of low-moisture fall forage. Details of monitoring residual dry matter are contained in the Region 5 Range Analysis Handbook (FSH 2209.21), and this program should be followed.

We also recommend the hiring of personnel educated and trained in range ecology/management. A shortcoming of the range management program on the Sierra National Forest is the lack of personnel educated and trained in Range Ecology/Management. Educated range professionals must be hired, and participate in continuing education programs, so that qualified personnel are interpreting range management data, making management decisions and developing management strategies.

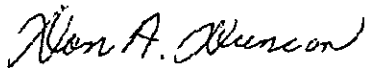
Cordially,



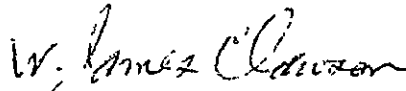
William E. Frost
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
C.A.T.I., C.S.U. Fresno



Neil K. McDougald
Madera County Range and
Livestock Farm Advisor
U.C. Cooperative Extension



Don A. Duncan
Director, SJER
C.A.T.I., C.S.U. Fresno



W. James Clawson
Range Specialist
U.C. Cooperative Extension

Itr. 0412

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS**

RESPONSES:

1. The Forest has added to the monitoring section of the plan the monitoring of range condition and trend, expressed as changes in species composition; forage utilization in high elevation meadows expressed as percent of allowable use; and forage utilization of annual grassland expressed as residual dry matter RDM.

We have added trained personnel educated in range management principles at the Ranger District level and plan to continue our Range Plant Identification workshops here on the Forest to maintain the needed botanical skills to conduct species composition frequency measurements. The range management personnel and seasonal aids will participate in the continuing education programs sponsored by the Region and other groups such as U. C. Extension to upgrade their professional skills so that sound management decisions can be made to protect and maintain the stability and development of the rural economy.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

PSW

Reply to: 1900

Date: December 29, 1986

Subject: Sierra Plan Comments

To: Forest Supervisor, Sierra NF

We would like to offer the following comments and suggestions on the Sierra NF draft plan and environmental impact statement. These comments are based on FSM-4062, R-5's Supplement No.1 to it, our desire for consistency across Forests, the unique nature of the San Joaquin Experimental Range, and a few errors in need of correction.

Draft Management Plan

- 1 Page 3-17. 3.20.2 RNA. The official title of "the blue oak - digger pine" RNA is the San Joaquin Experimental Range Research Natural Area. This title should be used here and elsewhere in the Plan and EIS to avoid confusion.
- 2 Page 4-11. 4.3.18. Name of RNA. See p.3-17.
- 3 Page 4-16. 4.4.10. While we don't deny public access to experimental areas, we do discourage it. We suggest wording on recreation be changed to "Dispersed recreation will be limited..." and delete "...recreational opportunities will occur in unroaded natural settings".
- 4 Page 4-16. 4.4.11. We are not sure what the best way to handle the range prescription since it is being managed by California State University-Fresno under a cooperative agreement with us. A management plan is included in the agreement. In addition, the Range is not considered national forest land since it is not part of the public domain nor is it within the boundaries of the National Forest. Two options exist: 1) exclude the Range from consideration in the LMP, or 2) make the prescriptions conform to the existing management plan and cooperative agreement with CSU-Fresno. We are not sure which would be best, but the rest of the comments assume option 2.
- 5 Page 4-16. 4.4.12. We suggest limiting recreation activity in the RNA. See memo from David Diaz-RO.
- 6 Page 4-70. 4.8.8. Par. 1 Name of RNA. See p.3-17. Standards and Guides are OK except for: 46 these oak guides are inappropriate for SJER which is at a different elevation than most of the Forest--delete; 113 not applicable since we own water rights; 115 not applicable since not public domain; 121 not applicable since no existing rights; 197b omit since we are encouraging housing; 199 delete since building maintenance is CSU-Fresno responsibility; 201 delete since updates specified in coop agreement with Cal. State-Fresno.
- 7 Page 4-73. 4.8.10. Par. 2. Name of RNA. See p.3-17.
- 8 Page 6-3. Research Needs. We assume that the RO has supplied comments based on the Region wide assessment of needs.



FS-6200-28a (5/84)



Draft Environmental Impact Statement

- 9 Page 2-36. 2.5.4.10. Suggest "recreational opportunities will be limited."
- 10 Page 2-37. 2.5.4.12. Suggest "Dispersed nonmotorized recreation will be limited."
- 11 Page 2-40. Table 2.04. Suggest under Recreation Opportunity using the word "limited" for lines 10, 11 and 12. Mineral location and leasing should be "None" for 11. Exp. Range not "Open".
- 12 Page 2-47. 2.6.1.17. Name of Blue Oak-Digger Pine RNA should be San Joaquin Experimental Range RNA.
- 13 Page 2-57. 2.6.2.17. Name of RNA. See p.2-47.
- 14 Page 2-67. 2.6.3.17. Name of RNA. Also pp. 77,87,97,107,117.
- 15 Page 3-116. 3.5.21.2. Name of RNA. Also acreage should be 80 not 70.
- 16 Page 3-117. 3.5.21.4. Suggest changing "designated" to "purchased". Also add to "under the direction of PSW" the statement "in cooperation with California State University at Fresno." Change name of RNA.

This is the some total of our comments though I suspect we probably missed a few things. There are an awful lot of words in the draft documents. If you have any questions please contact Enoch Bell (FTS) 449-3436.

Ronald E. Stewart
for
ROGER R. BAY
Station Director



ltr. 0413

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PSW**

RESPONSES:

1, 2, and 3 The change has been made

4 Option two, making prescriptions conform to existing management plan and co-op agreement with CSUF, is required. The text now conforms to this

5. Since there is very little recreational activity in RNAs, there seems to be little or no significant impact to RNAs. The wording reflects this strategy.

6. The S&Gs you listed do not apply to the San Joaquin Experimental Range or any other experimental facilities.

7. This change has been made.

8. Yes, the Regional Office worked with us.

9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16. These changes have been made.



MADERA COUNTY
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

209 W Yosemite Ave
Madera California 93637
Telephone (209) 675-7768

December 8, 1986

Mr. James L. Boynton
Sierra National Forest
1130 "O" Street, Room 3017
Fresno, California 93721

Dear Mr. Boynton:

1

The primary task of the Madera County Industrial Development Commission is to create and retain employment opportunities for County residents. As such, we are extremely concerned that the reduction in the amount of timber cut in the Sierra National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan would adversely impact the employment level in Madera County.

The timber industry continues to be a dominant employment force in Eastern Madera County. If the "preferred alternative" of the proposed Sierra National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan is adopted, the future of the Sierra Forest Industries Mill in North Fork could be in jeopardy.

We urge you to carefully consider the impact this would have on Madera County residents. The potential loss in jobs, tax base, etc. is important to the economic vitality of our region.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

James E. Taubert
Executive Director

JET/pt

MADERA COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

RESPONSES:

Your preference for maintaining job opportunities was considered during our final analysis. There are trade-offs between the higher levels of timber production in Alternatives C and H and the Preferred Alternative including effects on fish, wildlife, soils, water, riparian zones, visual and recreational resources, local employment and local government finances. All of these are described in the EIS and were considered in our analysis.

Your letter and many others stated that current levels of harvest are too low, and if the ASQ was not raised to approximately 160 MMBF, the North Fork Mill could close. Other respondents gave diverse reasons why ASQ under the Preferred Alternative was too high. They claim the budget needed to produce this level of harvest is unrealistically high, and gives an undesirable subsidy to the timber industry because revenues would not cover costs to the government. There were strong objections to using pesticides, clearcutting and harvesting timber on marginal timber land. They point out the potential adverse effects of timber harvesting on resources such as Soils, Watershed, Wildlife habitat, and Riparian zones. They request more land be assigned to resources other than timber production.

Timber industry advocates claim the preferred ASQ is insufficient to support mill operations at levels like those favorable conditions experienced in 1986, 1987, and 1988. Should favorable market conditions continue for an extended period, uncut timber under contract will continue to decline and this will lead to increased competition and prices.

The impact of increased competition will not spread evenly among the five mills that have been purchasing timber from the Forest. The least competitive mills will reduce operations before those with better locations and more efficient equipment and operations.

The general pattern of mill closures in California indicates that mills located in mountain locations are at a competitive disadvantage to those located in the Central Valley. The highway network allows mills located in the valley to haul logs from a broader supply area than mills located in the mountains. Hauling logs from a larger supply area also allows mills to expand and take advantage of economies of scale.

As competition increases, a mill such as the North Fork mill, rather than the other mills now purchasing the Forest's timber, is more likely to reduce operations. This is a consequence of its mountain location, exclusion from small business set-aside areas available to the Madera and Sacramento mills, and observed inefficient conditions. The Auberry, Dinuba, and North Fork mills are under single ownership, and during periods of market weakness, the owners historically curtail operations at the North Fork mill first. Although an investment in a cogeneration plant makes this mill more cost effective, the mill is still less efficient than the other mills. Cogeneration provides a small edge or cancels the disadvantage of the mill's poor location. Based on the history of this area's mill operations, the Forest would have to provide 137 MMBF ASQ to the local mills in order to provide the North Fork mill with sufficient timber at prices that would allow it to remain competitive.

A loss of timber-related employment opportunities in the foothill area is possible over the next 15-25 years even if the Forest could sustain annual harvests in the neighborhood of 150 MMBF. This decline would occur as a consequence of more efficient capacity added to mills in more favorable locations and increased competition from mills outside the traditional market area. Additional information on the regional timber demand status has been added to the final EIS as Appendix L.

The views on ASQ are divergent. Some argue for jobs, families, and businesses, while others argue for soil, fish, wildlife, riparian zone, and visual quality. Our responsibility is to weigh all values and needs and select an ASQ that provides a balance between maximizing timber production on lands capable and suitable for growing timber and protecting other values and resources. The Forest has confidence the final ASQ meets this balance.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MADERA COUNTY

J. GORDON KENNEDY, District 1
 ALFRED GINSBURG, District 2
 GAIL HANHART MCINTYRE, District 3
 JESS LOPEZ, District 4
 DON DARNELL, District 5



WANDA BRADLEY, Clerk of the Board
 MADERA COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
 208 WEST YOSEMITE AVENUE
 MADERA, CALIFORNIA 93637
 (209) 675-7700

File No: 86099

Resolution No: 86-415

Tape No: 5-403

Date: December 9, 1986

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST
 DEC 15 1986

In the Matter of DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED STATEMENT AND RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

ACTION: INFO) Upon motion of Supervisor Kennedy, seconded by
 FSUPV _____
 DJ SUPV _____ Supervisor Ginsburg, it is ordered that the attached be and it
 AD _____
 NEC _____ is hereby adopted as shown.

I & E _____ I hereby certify that the above order was adopted by the
 RANGE _____ following vote, to wit:

TRM _____ AYES: Supervisors Kennedy, Ginsburg, Lopez and Darnell.
 F.M. _____ NOES: None.
 _____ ABSTAIN: None.
 ENGR _____ ABSENT: Supervisor Hanhart McIntyre.

LANDS _____
 L.M.P. _____ Distribution:
 RESOURCES _____
 OTHER _____
 DISTRICTS _____ CAO
 REG. _____ County Counsel

ATTEST: WANDA BRADLEY, CLERK
 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 By *Kathy Taylor*
 Deputy Clerk

- Planning
- U.S. Forest Service
- John Norby
- Governor Deukmejian
- Senator Alan Cranston
- Senator Pete Wilson
- Congressman Tony Coelho
- Congressman Charles Pashayan
- Congressman Richard Lehman
- Senator Ken Maddy
- Senator Rose Ann Vuich
- Senator Walter Stiern
- Assemblyman Jim Costa
- Assemblyman Bruce Bronzan
- Assemblyman Rusty Areias
- Assemblyman Bill Jones
- Assemblyman Gary Condit

DRAFT STATEMENT BY
MADERA COUNTY SUPERVISORS

The Madera County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of balanced programs of multiple-use on our national forests. The Board commends the administration of the Sierra National Forest for its thorough preparation of eight Land Management program alternatives representing a broad range of multiple-use mixes. In doing so, the Board notes that all alternatives are environmentally sound; no alternative constitutes a threat to environmental values.

The Board, therefore, suggests that the economic consequences of various alternatives should be a major factor in the selection of a final alternative. The final alternative should not only provide for a healthy local economy while maintaining maximum flexibility for the future, it should also recognize the responsibility that federal lands have toward meeting regional and national goals.

To both those ends, the Board is concerned that the Preferred Alternative (A) represents a reduction in potential economic ceilings for Madera County. Although the existing plan for timber management allows a sustained harvest of 149.2 million board feet (MMBF) annually, the proposed plan would reduce that amount by 16%, to only 125 MMBF annually. This is being proposed in spite of a long-standing Forest Service policy — a policy which, in fact, tightly governs future timber harvest scheduling — of non-declining yield.

The Board is also concerned that the proposed 10-year timber harvest program is only 80% of the level projected in Alternative A, and only 70% of the currently-approved level.

Although current harvest levels from the Sierra National Forest are below those of the 1970's, several unique economic factors have combined to produce that result. Included in those factors are the residual effects of the economic recession of the early 1980's, the

DRAFT STATEMENT
Madera County Supervisors
November 24, 1986
Page 2

alternate sources of timber supply (Canadian, Southern, and private), a rapidly developing need for the alternative supply sources to reduce production, and the adjustment of manufacturing profiles in the wood products industry. The industrial adjustment is the result of the economic recession. It is not complete and, by its nature, will require time to become complete. Artificial restraints on available raw material will hinder the development of that adjustment and, in the face of the highest-ever regional and national demand for wood products, will do a disservice to California consumers state-wide. Industrial capacity develops in response to opportunity, not vice versa, and Alternative A seems to foreclose economic opportunity. If raw material supplies are available, industrial processing capacity will develop in the form of either new plants or expanded capacity for existing plants. The resulting increase in economic activity, both directly and indirectly is important to Madera County.

California is unique in that 70% of its lumber production is sold within-state. Furthermore, more than half of California's lumber consumption occurs south of Santa Barbara County. Four of the nation's top twenty housing-start areas are in Southern California. California's wood products industry, besides providing basic support to local economies, is also intimately tied to the Southern California economy. Because of its geographic location, the Sierra National Forest is in a good position to respond to Southern California's demands for California wood products. The draft documents recognize the recreational demands placed on the forest by the large urban populations; they do not adequately recognize the concurrent commodity demands and associated opportunities for the timber-producing regions.

DRAFT STATEMENT
Madera County Supervisors
November 24, 1986
Page 3

After reviewing the various alternatives, the Board finds that in nearly every respect Alternative H is economically superior to Alternative A. For example, annual figures in millions of dollars during the plan period are:

	<u>Alt. A</u>	<u>Alt. H</u>
Total benefits	223.0	229.7
Returns to treasury	16.0	21.1
Non-cash benefits	207.0	208.6
Cash flow	(7.0)	(5.4)
25% county receipts	4.0	5.3
County yield taxes	0.5	0.6
Employment (M-person years)	4.6	5.2
Discounted benefits	219.8	229.8
Present net value	162.0	163.5

The Board found, also, that the two alternatives compare favorably with respect to "non-commodity" outputs during the plan period. For example:

	<u>Alt. A</u>	<u>Alt. H</u>
Developed recreation	1,705.0 M-RVD	1,705.0 M-RVD
Dispersed recreation	2,095.8 M-RVD	2,095.8 M-RVD
Wilderness use	462.8 M-RVD	462.8 M-RVD
Wildlife & fish user days	495.6 M-WFUD	438.0 M-WFUD
Grazing	38.0 M-AUM	40.0 M-AUM
Timber -	125.2 MMBF	160.0 MMBF
Fuelwood	22.5 M cords	22.5 M cords

DRAFT STATEMENT
Madera County Supervisors
November 24, 1986
Page 4

Alt. A - Cont'd Alt. H - Cont'd

Water -		
ac. ft. @ quality	2.586 M	2.597 M
increased qty.	0.039 MM ac.ft.	0.044 MM ac.ft.
watershed improvement	226 ac/yr	226 ac/yr
Area burned-wildfire	2,163 acres	2,082 acres
Wildlife -		
bald eagles	5-10	5-10
peregrine falcon	3	3
deer	18.4 M	13.1 M
spotted owls	108 pr.	107 pr.
goshawk	60 pr.	60 pr.
Lahontan trout	2 pops.	2 pops.
Paiute trout	2 pops.	2 pops.
resident fish	90 M-lbs.	90 M-lbs.

The Board notes that the "commodity" outputs (timber, fuelwood, water, grazing) on the list are the only ones, except for deer, with significant variations. In each "commodity" case, Alternative H is superior. Of the alternatives that reduce deer carrying capacity, Alternative H produces the least reduction.

1 In view of the similarity between the non-commodity resource outputs of Alternatives A and H, and the superior economic consequences and opportunities of Alternative H, the Madera County Board of Supervisors supports the adoption of Alternative H as the management direction for the Sierra National Forest during the coming plan period.

###

RESOLUTION NO. 86-415

1 WHEREAS, the Sierra National Forest has produced draft
2 alternatives of its Land and Resource Management Plan for the
3 next 10-15 years, and

4 WHEREAS, all alternatives protect environmental values, and

5 WHEREAS, the economic programs of the Sierra National Forest
6 are important to the economy of Madera County as well as to the
7 economy of California at large, and

8 WHEREAS, the proposed alternative forecloses certain
9 economic opportunities for the future, and

10 WHEREAS, projected non-commodity resource outputs vary
11 insignificantly between alternatives A and H, and

12 WHEREAS, alternative H provides a more favorable economic
13 outlook for Madera County;

14 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Madera County Board
15 of Supervisors supports expanded economic considerations in the
16 planning of national forest activities.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for the coming 10-15 year plan
18 period, the Madera County Board of Supervisors favors Alternative
19 H as the alternative of choice.

20 The foregoing was adopted this 9th day of December, 1986, by
21 the following vote:

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- 23 ///
- 24 ///
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- 27 ///
- 28 ///

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Supervisor Kennedy voted:

Yes

Supervisor Ginsburg voted:

Yes

Supervisor Hanhart McIntyre voted:

Absent

Supervisor Lopez voted:

Yes

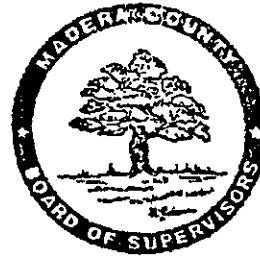
Supervisor Darnell voted:

Yes

Don Darnell
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Wanda Bradley
Clerk, Board of Supervisors



MADERA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESPONSES:

Thank you for responding to our Draft LMP. As you noted, the ten year Action Plan was not correct. This has been corrected in Appendix C in the Plan.

Your preference for Alternative H was considered during our final analysis. There are trade-offs between the higher timber production and economic advantages of Alternative C and H and the Preferred Alternative. These trade-offs include effects on fish, wildlife, soils, water, riparian zones, visual and recreational resources, local employment and local government finances. All of these are described in the EIS and were considered in our analysis

Your letter and many others stated that current levels of harvest are too low, and if the ASQ was not raised to 160 MMBF, employment and revenues in Madera County would decline.

Other respondents gave diverse reasons why ASQ under the Preferred Alternative was too high. They claim the budget needed to produce this level of harvest is unrealistically

high, and gives an undesirable subsidy to the timber industry because revenues would not cover costs to the government. There were strong objections to using pesticides, clearcutting and harvesting timber on marginal timber land. They point out the potential adverse effects of timber harvest on resources such as Soils, Watershed, Wildlife habitat, and Riparian zones. They request more land be assigned to resources other than timber production.

Timber industry advocates claim this amount is insufficient to support mill operations at levels like those favorable conditions experienced in 1986, 1987, and 1988. Should favorable market conditions continue for an extended period, uncut timber under contract will continue to decline and this will lead to increased competition and prices.

The views on ASQ are divergent. Some argue for jobs, families, and businesses, while others argue for soil, fish, wildlife, riparian zone, and visual quality. Our responsibility is to weigh all values and needs and select an ASQ that provides a balance between maximizing timber production on lands capable and suitable for growing timber and protecting other values and resources. The Forest has confidence the final ASQ meets this balance.

December 10, 1986

Mr. James L. Boynton
Forest Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
1130 "O" Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Boynton:

The Fresno County Recreation and Wildlife Commission has received your proposed forest plan and draft environmental statement. It is the duty of the Fresno County Recreation and Wildlife Commission to study any proposals that will affect recreational opportunities or wildlife and to make recommendations to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

It was quite obvious that any actions in the Sierra Forest would, directly or indirectly, affect recreation or wildlife. Therefore, our comments will cover all aspects of your proposed plan. First we wish to take this opportunity to compliment your staff on the vast amount of data that has been accumulated and the manner in which the draft EIS and the proposed Forest Land and Resource Management Plan was prepared. We were favorably impressed by the scope of concerns covered in the Management Standards and Guidelines section of the "Proposed Plan."

Our remarks will cover some of the concerns which we felt were not adequately covered and we respectfully request that your Land Management Planning staff give them sincere consideration before drafting the final Land Management Plan.

Recreation:

1. We do not feel that your goal of rehabilitating the trails by 2010 is acceptable. We hear many complaints that the trail maintenance and conditions of trails on the Sierra Forest are bad. We urge that additional funding and efforts should go into correcting the problem long before 2010.
2. We feel that additional parking areas and facilities should be provided at "trail-head" locations where livestock users can park their vehicles and trailers with facilities for loading, unloading, and caring for pack stock.
3. We feel the forest should provide for a wide variety of camping facilities from single campsites to small unimproved areas, with no facilities, on up to the campgrounds in the popular lake-oriented recreational areas that may have flush toilets and shower facilities.

Mr. James L. Boynton
December 10, 1986
Page Two

4. We do not feel that in the establishment of the National Forest system, it was ever the intent that visitors to our National Forest should have to pay for the privilege.
3. 5. We do accept that those staying in the improved campgrounds should pay a reasonable fee for the clean up and maintenance of those facilities.
6. We feel that where roads parallel streams, parking spaces should be provided for people who desire to fish, picnic, or just enjoy the area.
5. 7. We have also been informed that the trail signs along Sierra Forest Trails are in poor repair and far from adequate.
8. We also wish to note that there is a definite lack of camping facilities for groups, i.e., church groups, 4-H groups, etc.
9. We feel that additional development should take place in the lower elevation year-round trails in Management Area 5.
10. We feel that trails should be open during and after logging operations and, where necessary, reconstructed to safe standards.

Wilderness:

6. 1. The current wilderness permit system is not adequate to protect the resources and creates a hardship for people desiring to visit the wilderness areas of the forest. Trail head daily quotas do little to control the number of people who may impact a particular lake or area. The necessity (in many cases) of having to appear at a Ranger Station to obtain a permit can cause the loss of valuable travel time.
2. We strongly recommend that the wilderness permit system be revised to provide needed resource protection or the present permit system be discontinued.
3. Trail maintenance and trail signs are not adequate to provide for safe use by the public.

Fish and Wildlife:

7. 1. We did not feel that sufficient consideration was given to fisheries. The Lahontan Trout protection and overdrafting of streams were covered but other habitat maintenance or enhancement seems to be left to coordination with other management practices.
2. We feel that fishery habitat enhancement goals should be included in the plan.

Mr. James L. Boynton
December 10, 1986
Page Three

- 8 3. Any development plans submitted to the Forest Service for approval must include provisions that will ensure that fish-wildlife habitat and sensitive plant resources will be maintained at pre-project levels.
- 9 4. Chaparral conversion projects such as Jose Basin must be designed in a mosaic pattern that will enhance habitat for wildlife as well as cattle. Browse ways and plots of herbaceous forage must be left in the conversion area.
- 10 5. Deer fawning areas should be excluded from livestock grazing permits and key areas should be fenced to retain cover for fawns.
- 11 6. We feel that five per cent of clear cuts should be left to regenerate in a natural condition to provide wildlife habitat.
- 12 7. The construction of a specific number of water retention ponds for use by cattle and wildlife should be an annual goal of the plan.
- 13 8. Current levels of oaks should be maintained for the benefit of the 80 to 90 species of wildlife who are dependent on oaks.

Riparian Areas:

- 14 1. Many riparian areas in the Sierra Forest are in poor condition. The management goals should specify a precise number (or acres) of meadows that will be rehabilitated each year. There should also be a stated plan for stream bank rehabilitation.
- 15 2. Meadows that are being encroached upon by Lodgepole Pines should be designated as sites for harvesting of fuel wood. The removal of Lodgepole Pines will be beneficial to the meadow and fill a current need for fuel wood by the general public.
- 16 3. Volunteer help should be solicited for meadow enhancement projects.
- 17 4. No permit for any type of commercial development should be approved that does not provide more riparian habitat than exists at the time of the permit application.
- 18 5. No Meadow Management Plans (such as the Sequoia Park Plan) should be approved without consideration of the desires and needs of the users and the general public.

Range:

- 19 1. We do not favor increasing the cattle animal unit months (AUM) on the Sierra Forest to 44,000 AUM's per year. The current grazing program is not paying the management cost necessary to supervise the program.

Mr. James L. Boynton
December 10, 1986
Page Four

- 20** 2. We do favor chaparral conversions for cattle when they are designed to also provide the maximum benefits for wildlife.
- 21** 3. We would favor a program to phase out all cattle allotments in the wilderness areas. Many are no longer used and the present costs of transporting cattle (liability insurance) has become so expensive that it is no longer a cost-effective means of raising cattle.
- 22** 4. We feel a plan to reduce cattle grazing in key deer fawning areas is urgently needed. High grass cover is needed to protect new fawns from the many predators who prey on them.

Timber:

- 23** 1. We fail to understand how you plan (as mandated by Federal law) to maintain the biological diversity of the forest when the plan specifies the use of clear-cut methods for seventy per cent of the timber producing area and only one plant or species of tree is to be allowed to grow in the cut-over areas.
2. We feel that a 50 year over-view map is needed that shows what areas of the forest are planned for clear cuts, shelter wood cuts, selective cutting and what areas will be left in their natural condition.
- 24** 3. We have some serious doubts about your ability to maintain the fertility of the forest soils when thousands of tons of fibre (timber) are continually planned for removal. The farmers can't continue to take from the soil and we don't think the Forest Service can either.
4. For the same reason, we are strongly opposed to the use of forest products to fuel energy-biomass plants. We feel that all possible timber by-products should be returned to the soil.
5. Since clear-cuts are responsible for accelerated erosion and the loss of valuable topsoil, we recommend that only a limited amount of the logging slash and debris be piled and burned and that large amounts of small limbs be left in the soil to help retain water and lessen the damage from erosion.
6. We are quite concerned about the fire danger from large stands of even-age timber. The likelihood of "crown fires" and the hazard of gaining access to the fire zone seem to warrant considerable planning.
- 25** 7. We feel that five per cent of all clear cuts should be managed for wildlife. The continued checkerboard of clear cuts will eventually make a wildlife desert of large portions of the forest.

Mr. James L. Boynton
December 10, 1986
Page Five

- 26 8. You state that lower elevation oak stands will be maintained at current densities. How can you accomplish this goal without a plan for oak rejuvenation? A definite plan of oak rejuvenation should be included in the preferred plan.
- 27 9. We saw no plan for the use or the conversion of the large stands of Tamarak (Lodgepole Pine). Utilization of this resource should be included in the preferred plan.
- 28 10. We feel that further consideration should be given to paragraph 2, page 3-62 (DEIS) which states: "Mixed conifer stands, with their multi-layered canopy, suggests the maintenance of high growth rates with uneven age methods. Specialists in other resource disciplines suggest the use of this method as a solution to the negative effects of even age clear-cutting and shelter wood practices."
- 29 11. Trails should be open during and after logging operations and reconstructed to safe standards.

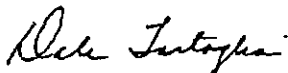
Hydro-Projects:

1. We feel that all hydro-electric proponents should be required to provide a complete EIS and pay all costs for analysis by the U. S. Forest Service and the California Department of Fish and Game.
- 30 2. All new and relicensing hydro-electric proponents should be required to provide a complete EIS and pay all costs for analysis by the U. S. Forest Service and the California Department of Fish and Game.
2. All new and relicensing hydro-projects must provide benefits to the forest and full mitigation for any environmental damage. Mitigation must be considered a direct project cost. Riparian and wildlife losses can no longer be condoned.

Again, may we compliment your staff for the job done in presenting the forest-wide goals and objectives and the goals and guidelines applicable to the individual management areas. We feel that your proposed Forest Land and Resource Management Plan comes closer to meeting the needs of the future than any forest plan we have previously studied.

Thanks again for the opportunity to review this important management document.

Sincerely,



Dale Tartaglia, Chairman
Fresno County Recreation and
Wildlife Commission

DT:HD:icm/6696a

**FRESNO COUNTY PARKS DIVISION
Recreation & Wildlife Commission**

RESPONSES:

1. Trail rehabilitation will somewhat depend on appropriations from Congress. The year 2010 is our best estimate for the time of completion. Forest crews and volunteers may complete this work ahead of schedule

2. Additional facilities have recently been completed at Mono trailhead and Maxon Dome. Both facilities are designed to accommodate hikers and equestrians. Additional trailheads are planned for several locations and will be constructed as funding becomes available

3. The Forest provides a wide variety of camping facilities and experiences, but Forest Service policy has not provided showers. This does, however, appear to be changing, and future facilities may include showers. The Forest feels there are already many places along most roads for forest visitors to park while enjoying hiking, fishing, or other activities

4. Visitors do not pay to visit a National Forest, unless staying within an improved campground

5. Trail signs and trail maintenance depends on Congressional funding. There have been severe cutbacks during the past several years. Trail work is gaining special emphasis in Congress and appropriations are increasing. Several group campgrounds were completed in 1987. The Forest Service shares your concern on group camping. This topic will be addressed in future recreation management plans.

6. The Forest agrees that heavy wilderness use around the trail access systems is making it hard to protect the resources. Since 1970, some controls and limits on group size and length of stay have been implemented. The Preferred Alternative will indicate that in the most congested areas, further supervision and control of visitors may be needed to mitigate or eliminate site damage and unsanitary conditions. The wilderness permit system will be analyzed at a project level to ascertain if improvements can be made

7. The S&Gs were developed to reduce negative impacts to the various resources of the Forest. These S&Gs, BMPS, and appropriate mitigation measures, are expected to prevent or minimize negative impacts to the fisheries' resource. In Chapter 4.0 of the Plan, there is a description of our intent to complete annual fishery habitat improvements. Aside from using appropriated funds and K-V funds, the Forest actively tries to find money from non-federal sources. Fishery habitat improvement funding has exceeded \$100,000 each year for the past several years. These funds are expected to increase substantially.

8. The Forest Plan described fisheries management objectives for hydroelectric development projects in S&Gs in Chapter 4. On a case-by-case basis, the proposed hydroelectric power projects are analyzed in close coordination with CDFG and managed to meet Forest objectives.

9. The recommended chaparral management program will provide a balance of age class diversity and distribution, and is designed to provide benefits for fire management, grazing, recreation access, and enhancement of wildlife habitat. Permanent type conversions on ridgetops and prescribed burns are management tools to achieve these goals

10. Cattle grazing seasons are adjusted to allow deer to use mountain meadows during most of the fawning season. Fence construction and maintenance costs for fencing all key areas would be prohibitive. However, if cooperative funding becomes available there may be some key deer areas where fencing would be appropriate.

11. By law, the Forest is directed to reforest harvested areas to a viable stocking level within five years. Vegetation, other than conifers, generally becomes established, and provides wildlife habitat until maturation of the conifers. Many clearcuts have clumps of small trees left in them. These clumps often make up 25-50% of the unit. Except for thinning, these clumps are left to grow naturally

12. Current structural standards make pond construction prohibitive. Ponds will be constructed as the opportunity and funding arises.

13. The S&G concerning oak retention is a balance between maintaining the needs for wildlife and the needs for other uses of this hardwood resource. Our S&Gs will meet the needs of all oak-dependent species.

14. The Preferred Alternative includes 226 acres/year of watershed improvement projects. Many of these projects will involve meadow rehabilitation. Additional S&Gs have been added to the final Plan, strengthening stream bank protection and rehabilitation. Thank you for pointing out the need to provide additional protection

15. This is a common practice in the Forest. Strange as it may seem, the Forest has not been successful in obtaining low bids for this work. Any assistance provided would be appreciated

16. This is also a common practice in the Forest. Additional partnerships will be formed during the life of the Plan. Challenge grants will also be used, whereby the Forest Service and groups or agencies combine staff and funding to accomplish this work.

17. The normal practice is to require replacement of equivalent riparian habitat. Requiring more is outside of our authority

18. This will be accomplished through project environmental assessments.

19. The increase in grazing in the Preferred Alternative to approximately 41,000 AUMs/year is based on range management principles. This does not solely mean an increase in livestock numbers, but a combination of adjustments of season and numbers. The increase will be in the lower elevation zones. The funds for managing the grazing program is decided by Congress and is not tied to income from grazing permits.

20 The Forest favors chaparral management as well. The recommended program reflects a balanced plan of what is believed can be done within the limitations of available staff, expected funding, and resolution of resource conflicts. The intent is to provide a balanced diversity of age classes, fuel reduction for fire protection, enhanced wildlife habitat, increased forage for grazing, and enhanced recreation access.

21. Elimination or phasing out cattle grazing in wilderness areas is outside the authority of the Forest Service and this Plan

22 Cattle grazing seasons are adjusted to allow deer to use mountain meadows during most of the fawning season. Dense brush thickets and conifer stands also provide essential hiding and thermal cover for fawns.

23 Clearcuts are often planted with at least two tree species. Natural seeding occurs from trees, brush, and forbs from adjacent area which combine with planted species. The potential loss of diversity when using uneven-aged harvest methods can be reduced by planting all appropriate species, or by designating appropriate combinations of species as seed trees or shelterwood trees.

24 S&G 112 in the Draft Plan requires that a minimum of 50% ground cover be maintained to protect soil productivity and minimize erosion. This ground cover consists of fine twigs, branches and needles. Generally, the large woody material contains a small percentage of the site's nutrients. A limited amount of large debris is needed for maintenance of micro-organisms and wildlife. This should be met by leaving three downlogs/acre.

25. Clearcuts will improve the habitat for wildlife species dependent on early and mid-succession seral stages and detract from the habitat for species dependent on later stages. Since the Forest will be a mosaic of clearcuts, partially cut areas, undisturbed areas, and wilderness, there will be diversity and transition types of wildlife habitats that will benefit all species.

26. The scope of this Plan does not include a detailed front country oak retention plan. Numerous research groups are studying blue oak regeneration. Information from these studies may determine if there is a need to monitor blue oak during the life of the Plan.

27. Lodgepole pine is part of the Forest's capable and suitable timber base. It will be utilized.

28 This paragraph has been rewritten.

29. Trails are only closed when there is a safety hazard. If damage occurs during timber harvesting, the logger is required to reconstruct them to at least the standard that existed prior to logging.

30. An EIS is required only when the projects are considered to have significant effects on the human environment. To make this determination, an EA is prepared at the request of or by the Forest Service using the applicant's information. This information is reviewed by a Forest Service ID team to determine if it is valid. Typically, the EA is prepared by consultants who work for many developers and who would not be in business if misrepresentations occurred. There are bad consultants, but these can be found by the review process. The Forest Service is not required to accept information if valid reasons are known that suggest that there are tainted operating funds derived from hydroelectric power generation.

The Forest Service is attempting to recover money from applicants for the cost of processing their applications. The Forest Service is considering a requirement that adds this to the hydroelectric development guidelines in the Plan. Many of your comments concerning mitigation are presently in the hydroelectric development guidelines.



COMMITTEES-
Aging & Long Term Care
Agriculture
Labor & Employment
Public Investments,
Finance & Bonded
Indebtedness

Rural Caucus

Joint Committee Refugee,
Resettlement, and
Immigration

Assembly California Legislature

BILL JONES

ASSEMBLYMAN, THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN

ASSEMBLY RURAL CAUCUS

VICE CHAIRMAN

ASSEMBLY LABOR & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

January 7, 1986

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ENTERPRISE 18463

Mr. James L. Boynton
Forest Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
1130 O St., Room 3017
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Boynton:

Please accept this letter as my comment on the proposed management plan for the Sierra National Forest.

I am, of course, concerned about the potential economic impact on Madera County as a whole and on North Fork in particular. A reduction in the allowable harvest below 150 million board feet per year could result in the closure of the sawmill in North Fork. As I am sure you are aware, the sawmill is the major industry and major employer in that area.

1 The Preferred Alternative (A) represents a potential reduction of Madera County's economic ceiling. Like many other small rural counties, Madera County is already battling decreasing income at a time when the demand for services is greater than ever.

With the realization that all of the alternatives were prepared with ecological considerations in mind, I support the Market Alternative which would put the allowable cut at 160 million board feet per year. Since the long term sustained yield of the Forest is close to 190 million board feet per year, this appears to be a workable compromise between sustaining a vital industry and efficient management of our natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Bill Jones

BILL JONES
Assemblyman, Thirty-Second District

RESPONSE:

Your preference for Alternative H and the continued operation of the North Fork Mill was considered during our final analysis. There are trade-offs between the higher levels of timber production in Alternatives C and H and the Preferred Alternative. These trade-offs include effects on fish, wildlife, soils, water, riparian zones, visual and recreational resources, local employment and local government finances. All of these are described in the EIS and were considered in our analysis.

Your letter and many others stated that current levels of harvest are too low, and if the ASQ was not raised to approximately 160 MMBF, employment and revenues to Madera County would decline and the North Fork mill would close.

Other respondents gave diverse reasons why ASQ under the Preferred Alternative was too high. They claim the budget needed to produce this level of harvest is unrealistically high, and gives an undesirable subsidy to the timber industry because revenues would not cover costs to the government. There were strong objections to using pesticides, clearcutting and harvesting timber on marginal timber land. They point out the potential adverse effects of timber harvesting on resources such as Soils, Watershed, Wildlife habitat, and Riparian zones. They request more land be assigned to resources other than timber production.

Timber industry advocates claim this amount is insufficient to support mill operations at levels like those favorable conditions experienced in 1986, 1987, and 1988. Should favorable market conditions continue for an extended period, uncut timber under contract will continue to decline and this will lead to increased competition and prices.

The impact of increased competition will not spread evenly among the five mills that have been purchasing timber from the Forest. The least competitive mills will reduce operations before those with better locations and more efficient equipment and operations.

The general pattern of mill closures in California indicates that mills located in mountain locations are at a competitive disadvantage to those located in the Central Valley. The highway network allows mills located in the valley to haul logs from a broader supply area than mills located in the mountains. Hauling logs from a larger supply area also allows mills to expand and take advantage of economies of scale.

As competition increases, a mill such as the North Fork mill, rather than the other mills now purchasing the Forest's timber, is more likely to reduce operations. This is a consequence of its mountain location and exclusion from small business set-aside areas available to the Madera and Sacramento mills. The Auberry, Dinuba, and North Fork mills are under single ownership, and during periods of market weakness, the owners historically have curtailed operations at the North Fork mill first. Although an investment in a cogeneration plant makes this mill more cost effective, the mill is still less efficient than the other mills. Cogeneration provides a small edge or cancels the disadvantage of the mill's poor location. Based on the history of this area's mill operations, the Forest would have to provide 137 MMBF ASQ to the local mills in order to provide the North Fork mill with sufficient timber at prices that would allow it to remain competitive.

A loss of timber-related employment opportunities in the foothill area is possible over the next 15-25 years even if the Forest could sustain annual harvests in the neighborhood of 150 MMBF. This decline would occur as a consequence of more efficient capacity added to mills in more favorable locations and increased competition from mills outside the traditional market area. Additional information on the regional timber demand status has been added to the final EIS as Appendix L.

The views on ASQ are divergent. Some argue for jobs, families, and businesses, while others argue for soil, fish, wildlife, riparian zone, and visual quality. Our responsibility is to weigh all values and needs and select an ASQ that provides a balance between maximizing timber production on lands capable and suitable for growing timber and protecting other values and resources. The Forest has confidence the final ASQ meets this balance.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE
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Sacramento, California 95825

IN REPLY REFER TO

I797
CA-930.12

JAN 8 1987

Zane Smith, Jr.
Regional Forester
US Forest Service
630 Sansome Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

Dear Mr. Smith:

We have reviewed the Sierra Forest draft plan and EIS and offer the following comments and suggestions. Our concerns are focused on the treatment of mineral resources and are included in the official Department of Interior response.

Specific Comments EIS

- 1 Page 2-45 (2.6.1.13): The text addresses mineral withdrawals within the Plan area. Which areas are being addressed and where are they located? Need to have a map(s) which identifies those areas which are currently W/D from mineral entry and those areas which are proposed under each alternative.
- 2 Page 2-125 (2.7.11): The text states that Alternatives A, C, F and H will recommend the withdrawal of an additional 1,140. Similarly, it states that Alternative D and E will withdraw an additional 26,238 and 11,310 acres, respectively. These should be clearly identified on a map.
- 3 Page 3-2 (4th paragraph): Text states that about 180 reported mineral deposits of potential economic value occur within the Forest. A few are being explored or are in production. The questions are: (1) Where are these deposits located? (2) Which mineral are known or suspected to occur at these deposits? (3) Where is exploration/production presently occurring? (4) Will the proposed Alternatives have any affect on this activity? What is the source for mineral deposit information? A map should be provided showing the relative number of claims in given areas within the Plan boundaries.
- 4 Along these same lines, are there any mineral leases (e.g., oil and gas, geothermal) within the Plan area? If so, where are they located? The 1983 edition of "Technical Map of the Geothermal Resources of California" by the

California Division of Mines and Geology shows three known thermal springs within the Plan area but no mention is made of the springs or the geothermal potential.

5 Page 3-97 (3.5.16.1, 2nd paragraph): The California Division of Mines and Geology map mentioned above shows over one-fourth of the Plan area to be favorable for geothermal resources. The Plan should be more specific on this issue.

Page 3-99 (3.5.16.1): The Multiple Use Mining Act should be briefly explained.

6 The statement "Where mining has the legal right to develop..." suggests that the permitting-authorization of development of locatable minerals is discretionary; this is not true.

7 Page 3-99 (3.5.16.2, 2nd paragraph): The text states "Little information exists about the quantity at any mineral resources in the Forest." If so, then what is the source of information presented in figure 3.04 on page 3-101. The term "mineral potential" as used by the FS should be defined.

8 Page 3-99 (3.5.16.2, 3rd paragraph): Which maps (titles, dates) from CDMG, USBM and USGS were used during the Plan preparation? Are they in the references?

9 Page 3-101 (Figure 3.04): Mineral Potential. The criteria to establish "very high-low" potentials should be defined. Since there appears to be little geologic data on mineral resources, why weren't any areas listed as unknown potential?

10 Page 3-103 (3.5.17.2): If any of the "occupancy trespass" structures are on existing mining claims the status of the mineral exploration/development would help define the situation.

11 Page 7-201-203 (Table L.01): The locations of deposits such as Sanbornite and others if known, should be represented on a mineral map of the Plan area. This map could also include the location of the claims listed on Table L.02.

Specific Comments - Plan

Page 3-13 (3.15): The "180 reported deposits and/or prospects containing minerals of potential economic value" which occur within the Plan area should be represented on an individual geological and mineral prospect (etc.) map.

Again, the document should show which areas are closed to mineral entry and mineral leasing under each alternative.

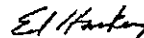
12 Page 4-31 (4.5.2.11): Prescription #122: If a claim has valid existing rights (VER) in a withdrawn area, the operator does not have to conform to the purpose of the withdrawal as long as he remains on the claims. This should be worded to reflect recognition of VER.

13

Prescription #134: No leasable minerals such as oil, gas, etc., are known to exist in the Plan area but the potential, if any, should be specified. The geothermal area referred to should be represented on a mineral status map.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on these documents.

Sincerely,



Ed Haste
State Director

cc:
DM, Bakersfield
WO (760), 909 Premier Bldg.

Itr. 1440

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management**

RESPONSES:

1 and 2 A withdrawal map and a table that shows the acres withdrawn by type have been developed and included in the final EIS.

3. The source of mineral deposit information was the Bureau of Mines/Mineral Industry Location (MILS) This information was part of the data used to develop the Mineral Potential Map. Some data requested are not necessary to present in the Plan. Interested parties can find the data in MILS.

4. There are currently no mineral leases within the area covered by the Plan. The Plan has been modified to reflect the geothermal potential of the three springs.

5. The second paragraph in this section has been modified to clarify the geothermal situation. The Multiple Use Mining Act is briefly explained in 3.5 15.1 of the Final Plan.

6. This paragraph has been rewritten.

7 The text has been clarified Mineral potential has been defined, and the method for determination has been described. There is limited information available about the Forest's land base.

8 The maps are now listed in the reference section.

9. The criteria to establish high/low potentials are now defined The maps in the the Plan did not have "unknown" potential as a criteria.

10 The "occupancy trespass" refers to land survey, not minerals.

11. This level of detail was not provided in this planning effort because public input did not indicate sufficient concern or interest in minerals. Forest district files contain this information.

12. The S&G has been clarified in the Final Plan.

13 The S&G has been clarified in the Final Plan. Areas of geothermal potential will not be included on the mineral status map. Locations can be found on maps in our files.



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT REVIEW
 BOX 36098, 450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102



January 9, 1987

ER86/1235

James L. Boynton, Supervisor
 Sierra National Forest
 Federal Bldg., Room 3017
 1130 "O" Street
 Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Boynton:

The Department of the Interior has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan (Plan) for the Sierra National Forest, California and offers the following comments.

Water Quality

1

Lack of adequate sanitation facilities is reportedly a common problem in the National Forest. The possibility of effects of this problem on ground-water supplies for the visiting public and staff should be assessed, and mitigation of ground-water contamination should be discussed, if appropriate. Requests for the use of Forest lands for disposal of sewage effluent and for community water-supply systems are discussed. The statement should address water-related effects of such uses of the Forest.

It is not clear whether the Forest will be utilized to receive miscellaneous solid wastes or provide sanitary landfill capability for surrounding communities. If appropriate, the statement should discuss potential impacts of such use(s) and indicate required monitoring or other mitigation. Monitoring requirements and practices for drinking water supplies for visitors and staff should be included in Table 5.01, which describes other monitoring and evaluation requirements.

Plans for the investigation of the ground-water pollution potential and the impact of surface-water runoff from the abandoned barite mine should be included.

Fish and Wildlife

2

The listed species that occur in the Sierra National Forest include the bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), Paiute cutthroat trout (Salmo calrki seleniris), and the Lahontan cutthroat trout (Salmo clarki henshawi). The Sierra National Forest provides habitat for the American peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus anatum) although none are currently known to nest there. Sixteen candidate plants also occur in the Sierra National Forest.

We have not critically reviewed the methodologies that have been used in other technical areas of the plan (recreation, timber, ranges, etc.) to ascertain whether they are consistent with the plan's assumptions for threatened and endangered species. However, we have reviewed the models and data bases that have been used for fish and wildlife and we have serious reservations about whether they are adequate to provide valid projections on probable impacts to fish and wildlife resources in general and threatened and endangered species in particular.

Generally, we believe that the resolution of issues involving listed species is best achieved through the normal Section 7 consultation process on a project-by-project basis when more specific information is available concerning potential project impacts. Therefore, we recommend that the Forest Service initiate formal consultation on those components of the selected alternative that may adversely affect listed species at the time such projects appear on your planning horizon.

3 With respect to recovery actions, we recommend that Plan be made consistent with the recovery plans that have been developed for the listed species that now occur, or historically occurred, in the Sierra National Forest. For the two threatened trouts, in particular, there is little, if any, guidance given on how the Forest Service plans to implement the recovery tasks identified in the management and recovery plans that have been developed for these threatened fishes.

4 With respect to candidate species, the proposed plan contains little guidance on how the Forest Service will manage the Forest to insure that such candidates do not become threatened or endangered. The importance of the sensitive plants of the Sierra National Forest, all of which are Federal candidate species (50 FR 39525-39584), cannot be overstated. *Carpenteria californica*, one of two members of the Hydrangeaceae in California (Cronquist 1981), is a monotypic genus and paleoendemic with no close relatives (Raven and Axelrod 1978). Similarly, Rawson's flaming-trumpet (*Collomia rawsoniana*) the subject of an interagency agreement with the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service, too is a paleoendemic with its closest relative growing near Crater Lake, Oregon (Grant 1959). The Merced River clarkia (*Clarkia lingulata*), the topic of much study regarding its evolutionary biology (Lewis 1955, 1961, and 1962; Lewis and Lewis 1952; Lewis and Roberts 1956), inhabits only Forest Service land along the Merced River. Other plants, like High Sierra evening-primrose (*Camissonia sierrae*, subsp. *alticola*) and parasol clover (*Trifolium bolanderi*), grow only or chiefly within the borders of the Sierra National Forest.

The management of these significant plants, therefore, should be fully addressed in the Forest plan. Sensitive plants currently are mentioned as an afterthought or in passing with no discussion of proposed management. Absent this discussion of sensitive or candidate plants, mismanagement may occur resulting in the need to Federally list these plants by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

- 5** Before the Forest Service commits itself to a plan that has enormous potential to drastically alter habitat conditions for several candidate and listed threatened and endangered species we recommend that a commitment first be made to obtaining the needed baseline data and validating the models that are used to evaluate fish and wildlife impacts. In situations where there is already good documentation to show that a listed or candidate species is currently in a declining or depleted status, land uses that would exacerbate the situation should be avoided until recovery is well underway.

Specific Comments

Plan

3.7 - Fishery Resources

- 6** The Plan states that the objective in managing the two threatened trout species is to avoid pushing them into an endangered status. Recovery plans have been developed for both of these trouts that have as their objectives complete recovery and delisting. The objectives in the proposed plan relative to the management of Paiute cutthroat trout and Lahontan cutthroat trout should be made consistent with the objectives in the recovery plans for these fishes.

3.10 - Sensitive Plants

- 7** The DEIS mentions 16 sensitive plants (page v) yet only 15 are listed on page 3-10. Although generally Forest management does not adversely affect sensitive plants, conflicts have occurred and likely will continue with five plant taxa, including the briefly discussed Rawson's flaming-trumpet (Collomia rawsoniana), which also are Federal candidate species. The proposed construction of an electric transmission line for the Vermilion Powerhouse Project (FERC No. 2086) will adversely affect, albeit insignificantly with the proposed mitigation measures, the High Sierra evening-primrose (Gamissonia sierrae subsp. alticola). Ongoing type or brush conversion projects near Sugarloaf Mountain likely impact carpenteria (Carpenteria californica), while proposed hydroelectric projects along the Merced River may result in the extinction of the Merced River clarkia (Clarkia lingulata). Grazing practices within certain meadows on the Minerets District may affect to some degree the distribution and density of parasol clover (Trifolium bolanderi). Although variously affecting sensitive plants, Forest management can conflict with the conservation of these five plants.

- 8** The discussion of the Interagency Agreement (not conservation agreement as indicated on page 3-10) should be elaborated here and throughout other portions of the plan and EIS. The Interagency Agreement signed on January 15, 1985, affects Forest management within the range of the species, especially its designated essential habitat. The plan should mention the Forest's forthcoming management plan for Collomia and past conflicts resolved via the cooperation and coordination between the

Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service under the terms of the Interagency Agreement.

4.2 - Forestwide Goals and Objectives

9 Goal (or objective?) #3 should be rewritten to include plants as follows:

"Manage fish, wildlife, and plant habitats to maintain viable populations of all resident or indigenous fish, wildlife, and plant species."

4.3.8 - Fish, Wildlife, and Sensitive Plants

10 Although we agree on the need for additional floristic surveys and sensitive plant monitoring, the plan should provide detailed management-species studies needed to resolve potential future conflicts. Moreover, this section fails to discuss that the Forest will coordinate with the Fish and Wildlife Service on hydroelectric projects affecting Rawson's flaming-trumpet, as per the Interagency Agreement.

4.5.2.5 - Fish and Wildlife

11 Aside from the failure to include plants in the title (change to "Fish, Wildlife, and Sensitive Plants"), this management standards and guidelines section does not mention the approved Interagency Agreement or forthcoming management plan. In addition, this section should include precise goals for each sensitive plant or at least a detailed plan (including timetable) describing actions (i.e., experimental studies) necessary for the development of these goals.

12 Of concern also, #32 states that "sensitive, threatened, endangered, and harvest species" will be accorded a "slightly greater emphasis." However, the Endangered Species Act requires the Forest Service not to undertake any actions, including the enhancement of harvest species, jeopardizing the continued existence of threatened or endangered species.

4.5.2.6 - Riparian

13 This section should mention restrictions on riparian areas (i.e., 300' corridors with Collomia rawsoniana essential habitat) embodied in the Interagency Agreement for Rawson's flaming-trumpet.

4.5.2.13 - Hydroelectric Development

14 As discussed above, this section should detail restrictions within essential habitat on hydroelectric projects, as per the Interagency Agreement.

DEIS

Fish, Wildlife, and Sensitive Plants

15 This section of the summary states that "[s]ensitive plants are protected or enhanced on a project by project basis." This implies that any enhancement or protection action necessary to "maintain viable populations" of sensitive plants will not occur unless this needed action is part of a proposed project. Thus, absent a Forest Service project, a given sensitive plant may be allowed to go extinct. This statement seems to conflict with Forest Service legal mandates.

Riparian

16 Certainly the implementation of the Interagency Agreement, a management activity, will afford protection to some riparian areas harboring Rawson's flaming-trumpet. The final sentence of this section should be modified appropriately.

1.4.5 - Fish and Wildlife

17 The title should be changed to "Fish, Wildlife, and Sensitive Plants." Additionally, this section should be expanded to include relevant planning questions for sensitive plants.

2.5.2 - Directions Common to All Alternatives

Under "Minimum Management Requirements," add to #1 "Essential habitat for Rawson's flaming-trumpet." Change #2 to read "Viable population levels for all fish, wildlife, and plant species."

2.5.3.1 - Goals and Objectives

18 As discussed above, change #3 to read "Manage fish, wildlife, and plant habitats to maintain viable populations of all resident or indigenous fish, wildlife, and plant populations."

2.5.3.2 - Standards and Guidelines

19 Change "Fish and Wildlife" to "Fish, Wildlife, and Sensitive Plants" and add beneath this heading, "Establish a 150-foot zone on each side of all creeks designated as essential habitat for Rawson's flaming-trumpet, as per the Interagency Agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service."

4.8.4 - Sensitive Plants

20 This section briefly discusses the "risk assessment" for sensitive plants associated with each alternative. However, this section should be expanded to translate what a particular level of risk means to each sensitive plant. This should be comparable to the "Summary of Alternatives" (4.8.3.3) sections for spotted owl.

National Parks

Yosemite National Park

- 21** We believe that the recreation management objectives for the Iron Mountain Trail need to be clarified. The Recreation Opportunity Class map shows this trail as unclassified, while the Recreation Element Map shows the trail accessible to two-wheel drive vehicles only. We prefer to see this trail included within the Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized classification. Trail bikers using this trail could cross the river in late summer and continue up the Alder Creek-Bishop Creek trail into the park. Environmental damage could occur inside the park, and enforcement of regulations prohibiting trail bike use on this trail would be difficult.
- 22** We recommend the status and management of Spotted Owls both inside and outside the park receive further review. The plan states on page 3-8 that 24 Spotted Owl Management Territories will be maintained in the Forest. These will support about 50 birds. Page 3-45 states that the current population is estimated at 240 birds. These figures appear to be in conflict with the preferred alternative analysis on page 4-44 that shows an eventual reduction of only 47% in Spotted Owl population of unknown size and distribution, and our desire is to insure that this population remain viable and not become isolated from other populations.
- 23** The plan also calls for restocking and enhancement of wild turkey populations. National Park Service policy banning the introduction of non-native species requires that we express concern over the possible immigration of this animal into the park. In only a few years, ptarmigan have invaded almost all alpine areas in the park from a release site to the east of the park, demonstrating the need for caution. We do not know whether wild turkeys could find habitat within the park.
- 24** The management strategy for Management Area 7, the proposed Bishop Creek Research Natural Area, is of special interest to the park. We strongly support the concept of preserving a sample of the ponderosa pine community in a natural condition, and believe that the designation of this area would present a prime opportunity for a joint management plan covering the RNA and adjacent park areas extending up to Highway 41.
- 25** Our current management calls for restoring a natural forest structure in this area by restoring natural fire regimes. The first step toward this goal is the use of prescribed fire to reduce unnatural hazardous fuel concentrations and restore ponderosa pine dominance in the understory. Perhaps joint environmental restoration projects could be undertaken involving the RNA and adjacent park areas.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

- 26** Comments on the subject plan and DEIS are essentially limited to proposals that could affect the park resources or visitor experience. There is little potential for significant effect on park resources, values or visitors, in

that most of the western boundary of Kings Canyon National Park joins the Sierra National Forest and all of that portion of the Sierra National Forest is designated wilderness. Therefore, even though some consumptive uses (grazing, etc.) are allowed on the part of the forest next to the park, management there is generally quite similar to management of the park.

1. Comments on the Plan:

27

Page 4-50 - Item #368 proposes new trail construction. We recommend coordination with NPS on any trails that would have an effect on the use of Kings Canyon National Park.

28

Page 5-1 - We see no indication of a monitoring program for the effects of backcountry use. We would encourage a monitoring program because it would enhance the interagency efforts toward consistent management of wilderness areas in the Southern Sierra.

2. Comments on the DEIS:

29

Page 2-30 - The 1,000 acre cutoff for fire confinement/containment on unbroken fuels seems nebulous. What is the definition of unbroken fuels and how do they relate to fire behavior and unnatural amounts of fuels? Perhaps this will be explained in a fire management action plan.

30

Page 2-42 - This section on wilderness includes 30 miles of new trail construction by 2030. The impacts of that trail construction should consider possible effect to Kings Canyon National Park for any that are located nearby.

31

Page 3-28 - The next to last paragraph indicates that prescribed fire will be used. In Chapter 4, under Wilderness, on page 4-37, the effects of prescribed fire are described. There is no indication of any limitation on the use of prescribed fire. We assume that there will be a fire management plan which will provide guidance for the use of prescribed fire. Any prescribed fire program in areas that could affect the park should be coordinated through the cooperative procedures currently in place.

32

Page 3-43 - We would be happy to cooperate with the Forest Service where our funding and manpower permit toward studies and projects to enhance several of the Species of Special Interest including Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, Goshawks, Spotted Owl, Willow Flycatcher and Mule Deer. We note that Chapter 4, page 4-45, indicates that all of the alternative include continuation of grazing which will have adverse effects on willow flycatcher habitat. Preliminary studies done in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks indicate that areas used by livestock have higher populations of cowbirds which have a direct adverse effect on willow flycatchers. We urge further study and consideration of modifying grazing programs where possible to enhance willow flycatcher habitat.

Page 4-44 - Once again we are interested in the Species of Special Interest as mentioned above.

Page 4-54 - In all of the alternatives, we recommend consideration of the willow flycatcher habitat in range management programs.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

33 We commend the Forest staff for their thorough and objective evaluations of the Nationwide Rivers Inventory segments contained on the Forest. We are particularly pleased to have had the opportunity to work with the Forest staff in the formulation of these evaluations and strongly endorse the wild and scenic river recommendations for those segments of the Merced, South Fork Merced, South Fork San Joaquin, and Middle Fork Kings Rivers that are contained in Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. Also, we generally concur with the preferred alternative recommendations for the remainder of the inventory rivers contained on the Forest.

34 We note one inconsistency in the wild and scenic river recommendations contained in the draft environmental statement with those in the Appendix E evaluations. On page 2-42 of the draft statement, under 2.6.1.4 Wild and Scenic Rivers it is stated that segment 9 on the Merced River is not recommended for designation. In Appendix E on page 7-119, the summary indicates that all 10 segments are recommended for designation. It would appear that the recommendation set forth in the Appendix is the correct one as it would make little sense to break the continuity of the protected river corridor with the elimination of segment 9, a segment that is otherwise eligible for designation.

35 In the preferred alternative river segment classification for the South Fork Merced River, we suggest that you consider upgrading the visual quality objectives for areas adjacent to South Fork segments 1, 5, and 16. Timber yield prescriptions for Analysis Areas 9 and 19, both proposed for classification as "general forest," have the potential for degradation of the viewshed from inside Yosemite National Park. At the present time, views across the river canyon from inside the park still retain an unspoiled character. Logging in Analysis Area 19 could also affect water chemistry and turbidity on the proposed "wild" river both inside and outside the park.

In view of this situation, we suggest that you consider upgrading the Visual Quality Objectives for the east side of the Iron Mountain-Devil Peak ridge from Type IV (Modification) and Type III (Partial Retention) to Type II (Retention). An upgrade from Type IV to Type II should also be considered for Analysis Area 19.

36

Also related to rivers issues, the Plan Appendices, on page 7-82, should state that the peak diversion for domestic water use in Yosemite Valley was 3.1 cfs, not 23-1 cfs. This diversion was discontinued in 1986, with domestic water now supplied by three wells. The reference to the Cascades powerhouse on this same page should also be corrected. That powerhouse was permanently closed in 1986 and the diversion of 115 cfs (maximum) discontinued. The Cascades diversion dam will be removed by 1989.

Minerals

37

We have reviewed the Plan and DEIS and found it inadequate with regard to comparable forest plans and DEISs. It is suggested that the following changes and additions be made in the final.

1. The mineral potential map needs to be at the same scale as the alternative maps. This is necessary to allow the reader a comparison of the alternatives with mineral potential.
2. Illustrations and discussion of mineral potential need to be provided for each of the roadless areas and wild rivers. The Bureau of Mines has completed studies on most of these areas, and this data should be incorporated into this report to provide the public with all available data.
3. Our office reviews numerous EIS documents and has come across an excellent classification system as shown in the attached table II-II (Enclosure 1) pages II-71 and II-72 of the Beaverhead National Forest DEIS.

We suggest a modification of this as shown, using percentages rather than acreages. It is easier to envision the comparison and comprehend the effects each alternative may have on mineral resources. The numbers are the same as the Beaverhead table.

38

The potential classification consists of five parts, with a range from high potential to very low potential based on current knowledge. The availability classification consists of four categories, including withdrawn, specific legal protection measures, special management conditions, and standard operating conditions. Combining potential with availability and comparing acreages, an excellent statistical representation of minerals availability would be presented.

4. Provide an Evaluation Criteria for Non-energy Minerals such as that from the Wallowa Whitman National Forest, Oregon (Enclosure 2).
5. Provide a definition of access categories such as that from the Beaverhead National Forest, Montana (Enclosure 3).

6. Provide a point-counterpoint discussion of how minerals affect other resources and how decisions affecting other resources will, in turn, affect minerals. The best example to date is the DEIS from the Wenatchee National Forest, Washington.

39

7. A list of current mineral withdrawals, acres involved, and mineral potential for locatable and leasable minerals. The best example is the Los Padres National Forest, California.

40

In addition to these improvements, we are greatly concerned with item 114, 4.5.2.11 Minerals, page 4-31 of the Proposed Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. We suggest entirely the theory of surface reclamation following completion of mining. However, in this paragraph (last sentence) it states: "Reclamation will include the treatment of any unneeded mine shafts, tunnels, tailings ponds, or any other on-site developments."

Please either define in the text the limitations of the term "unneeded" or send to the Bureau of Mines a detailed explanation of exactly how and by whom these facilities are determined to be "unneeded."

Specific Comments (DEIS)

41

Page 2-45 (2.6.1.13): The text addresses mineral withdrawals within the Plan area. Which areas are being addressed and where are they located? Need to have a map(s) which identifies those areas which are currently withdrawn from mineral entry and those areas which are proposed under each alternative.

42

Page 2-125 (2.7.11): The text states that Alternatives A, C, F and H will recommend the withdrawal of an additional 1,140 acres. Similarly, it states that Alternative D and E will withdraw an additional 26,238 and 11,310 acres, respectively. These should be clearly identified on a map.

43

Page 3-2 (4th paragraph): Text states that about 180 reported mineral deposits of potential economic value occur within the Forest. A few are being explored or are in production. The questions are: (1) Where are these deposits located? (2) Which mineral are known or suspected to occur at these deposits? (3) Where is exploration/production presently occurring? (4) Will the proposed Alternatives have any affect on this activity? What is the source for mineral deposit information? A map should be provided showing the relative number of claims in given areas within the Plan boundaries.

44

Along these same lines, are there any mineral leases (e.g., oil and gas, geothermal) within the Plan area? If so, where are they located? The 1983 edition of "Technical Map of the Geothermal Resources of California by the California Division of Mines and Geology shows three known thermal springs within the Plan area but no mention is made of the springs or the geothermal potential.

45 Page 3-97 (3.5.16.1, 2nd paragraph): The California Division of Mines and Geology map mentioned above shows over one-fourth of the Plan area to be favorable for geothermal resources. The Plan should be more specific on this issue.

Page 3-99 (3.5.16.1): The Multiple Use Mining Act should be briefly explained.

46 The statement "Where mining has the legal right to develop..." suggests that the permitting-authorization of development of locatable minerals is discretionary; this is not true.

47 Page 3-99 (3.5.16.2, 2nd paragraph): The text states "Little information exists about the quantity of any mineral resources in the Forest." If so, then what is the source of information presented in figure 3.04 on page 3-101? The term "mineral potential" as used by the FS should be defined.

48 Page 3-99 (3.5.16.2, 3rd paragraph): Which maps (titles, dates) from CDMG, USBM and USGS were used during the Plan preparation? Are they in the references?

49 Page 3-101 (Figure 3.04): Mineral Potential. The criteria to establish "very high-low" potentials should be defined. Since there appear to be little geologic data on mineral resources, why weren't any areas listed as unknown potential?

50 Page 3-103 (3.5.17.2) If any of the "occupancy trespass" structures are on existing mining claims the status of the mineral exploration/development would help define the situation.

Page 7-201-203 (Table L.01): The locations of deposits such as Sanbornite and others if known, should be represented on a mineral map of the Plan area. This map could also include the location of the claims listed on Table L.02.

Specific Comments - Plan

51 Page 3-13 (3.15): The "180 reported deposits and/or prospects containing minerals of potential economic value" which occur within the Plan area should be represented on an individual geological and mineral prospect map.

Again, the document should show which areas are closed to mineral entry and mineral leasing under each alternative.

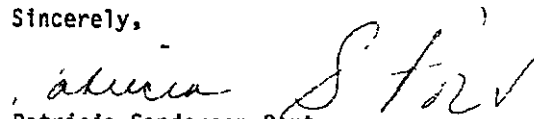
52 Page 4-31 (4.5.2.11): Prescription #122: If a claim has valid existing rights (VER) in a withdrawn area, the operator does not have to conform to the purpose of the withdrawal as long as he remains on the claims. This should be worded to reflect recognition of VER.

53

Prescription #134: No leasable minerals such as oil, gas, etc., are known to exist in the Plan area but the potential, if any, should be specified. The geothermal area referred to should be represented on a mineral status map.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on these documents.

Sincerely,


Patricia Sanderson Port
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures
As stated

ccs: Director, OEPR (w/orig. incoming)
State Dir., BLM
Reg. Dir., NPS
Dist. Chief, GS
Reg. Dir., FWS
Chief, BM

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of Environmental Project Review**

RESPONSES:

1. Facilities for administrative and public use within the Forest include adequate sanitation. To avoid ground water contamination, sanitation treatment facilities must meet local and state standards identical to those applied to private land. The issue of possible ground water contamination in new or existing sanitation facilities is addressed as a standard item in site investigation. This provides for periodic monitoring of ground water pollution potential. The impact from the abandoned barite mine is being studied under a program that will lead to implementation of measures needed to eliminate contamination of surface or ground water supplies should it exist.

2. Formal consultation, as specified under Section 7, will be initiated for project proposals that may impact listed species.

3. Clarification of Forest Service objectives for the two federally-listed threatened trout species is incorporated in the final Plan.

4. This section is revised in the final EIS. Detailed management guidelines for all sensitive plant species will not be addressed in the Plan, but will be included in individual Species Management Guides as they are developed. These guides will ensure that sensitive plants do not become federally-listed because of Forest Service actions.

Forest Service policy and direction, laws, and regulations require management and protection of sensitive plants and their habitats to prevent their placement on federal lists as threatened or endangered species.

5. Improving our baseline data is one of our highest priorities. However, adequate documentation indicating that any particular species in a declining state is not available. Such information would be useful for prioritizing the plants to be selected for development of the next Sensitive Plant Management Guide.

6. This information has been incorporated in the final Plan. Management strategies for these two fish species have been defined in their associated recovery plans. The Forest does not have plans to pursue a classification of critical or essential habitat for the streams supporting Lahontan or Paiute cutthroat trout. These federally threatened species are legally and adequately protected by the intent of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The Forest has developed management S&Gs to provide further protection for these species as found in the EIS and in the Plan.

7. Although forest management has the potential to impact sensitive plants, conservation of sensitive plants is one of the most important considerations in planning and implementing a project. Consultation and cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service is an integral part of this process. The Forest has executed an Interagency Agreement with FWS and has an approved Species Management Guide for Rawson's flaming trumpet. A Species Management Guide for *Clarkia lingulata* is being prepared, and additional Species Management Guides will be developed for all our sensitive plants as directed by the Regional Forester. The long-term grazing of meadows supporting Bolander's clover has not been considered an impact, however, research is needed to ascertain whether an impact exists. Research data may also reveal that grazing is needed to maintain the species. Since High Sierra primrose is an annual plant, the vagaries of weather appear to be more of a threat to this plant than Forest Service actions.

8. Your suggestion has been included in the final document.

9. The appropriate changes have been made in the final Plan.

10. Detailed studies identified for any of the sensitive plant species will not be addressed in the Plan, but will be addressed in Species Management Guides. The sensitive plant program guided by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, Forest Service Manual, and regional direction ensures the conservation of species needing special management. By law, the Forest Service must consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service with regard to proposed projects which could affect listed or candidate plants and their habitats, including Rawson's flaming trumpet.

11. "Sensitive species" has been included in the title as suggested. Detailed management schemes will be addressed in Species Management Guides as they are developed for each of the sensitive plant species.

12. The wording of the S&G will read: "Greater emphasis will be given to habitat improvement for sensitive, threatened, and endangered species."

13. Your concern has been addressed in the final EIS.

14. The Interagency Agreement is binding, therefore, to add S&Gs that repeat existing direction is unnecessary.

15. The Forest is conducting sensitive plant surveys and inventories to add to the data base. This will help determine the priority for preparing Species Management Guides. Each Species Management Guide will describe long-term goals and objectives for protecting and enhancing that plant species.

16. Adding to this section will not improve the clarity or direction of the document.

- 17 Sensitive plants have been added to this section. MMRs are developed at the regional level and are outside of the authority of the Forest to change Rawson's flaming trumpet is not a federally-listed species, but protective measures outlined in the Interagency Agreement and Species Management Guide for this plant will be strictly enforced. Your concerns were addressed in the MIR, pg 2-23 of the DEIS.
- 18 and 19. Your suggestion has been included in the final document
20. The risk assessment portion of the Plan will be removed from the final EIS. Risk assessment for sensitive plants will be addressed in individual Species Management Guides.
21. The Forest regrets the lack of clarity of the Recreation Element (Travel Plan) Map. It is the Forest's intent not to manage the Alder Creek/Bishop Creek trail for 2WD vehicles.
- 22 All of the estimated 240 owls in the Forest are not found in SOHAs. In future decades this will still be true. There will be about 50 owls in SOHAs, while the rest will be elsewhere.
23. The Forest Service and the CDFG have been restocking turkeys in the Forest. The Forest will coordinate its efforts with the Park Service
24. Thank you for your support.
25. Currently, the Forest, adjacent Forests and Parks, and California Department of Forestry are working together on prescribed fire and natural fire planning and coordination.
- 26 Thank you for your comment.
27. It is our practice to coordinate with adjacent landowners, whether private, state, county, or federal agencies, prior to any development that affects them
- 28 Backcountry activity is currently monitored along with other recreation in the Forest. No specific monitoring of this item is part of the Plan. There will be a review of backcountry activities when wilderness quotas and management plans are revised.
29. The 1,000-acre cutoff was chosen because of an analysis done related to existing fuels in the wilderness, best judgement on fire behavior if those fuels were to be ignited under average weather conditions, and personnel needed to monitor or suppress that fire or other fires
30. Coordination with Kings Canyon National Park will take place prior to any new trail construction that affects them.
- 31 Fire will be addressed in the implementation phase of the Plan, under Fire Management Action Plans.
32. Your offer of assistance is appreciated. Your agency will be contacted when the Forest begins its studies. The S&Gs for riparian areas have been modified to better protect wildlife habitat. If grazing is adversely impacting Willow flycatcher habitat, protective measures, such as timing and distribution of grazing and structure controls, will be implemented. Several projects to improve and protect Willow flycatcher habitat are planned, and at least two should be completed in fiscal year 1989.
33. Thank you for your support.
34. The final Plan will show Segment 9 as recommended for designation. Appendix pg. 7-120 and the reference to Segment 9 in the DEIS will be eliminated in the final EIS.
35. VQOs are not arbitrarily assigned to protect viewsheds. The combination of the variety class and distance zone makes the Iron Mountain/Devils Peak Ridge area a Type IV modification.
36. These corrections have been made in the Appendix and the final EIS. Percentages were determined from Table 4.19 by the differences in yield at the end of decade five and the base year amount of 2.6 MM acre/feet.
- Sanitation problems are mainly those that affect local surface supplies. With increased education concerning proper field sanitation, this problem will diminish. Existing vault toilets are supposed to be leakproof. Those found to be in violation will be repaired or replaced. The abandoned barite mine is being investigated and will be handled as a special project.
37. Since mineral potential was not a public issue or management concern, an element map was not developed. Larger scale maps, illustrations, and discussions about mineral potential in wild river areas are available in the files for review. There are no roadless areas in the final EIS
38. Since mineral potential and activity is not a major activity or a critical issue or concern, the Forest did not provide details as presented in the plans cited. The concerns raised will be addressed in environmental assessments, which will be prepared for each proposed project.
39. Thank you for your comment. A map and list of mineral withdrawals have been included in the final EIS.
40. This statement has been clarified in the final EIS.
41. A withdrawal map and chart have been developed and included along with a table showing acres withdrawn by type.
42. The alternative maps show areas of additional withdrawal. The text has been changed to identify them.

43 The source of mineral deposit information was the Bureau of Mines Mineral Industry Location (MILS) This information was part of the data used to develop the Mineral Potential Map. The Forest does not believe the data are necessary to include in the Plan Interested parties can find the data in MILS

44. There are currently no mineral leases within the Plan area. The Plan has been modified to reflect the geothermal potential of the three springs.

45. The second paragraph has been modified to clarify the geothermal situation. The Multiple Use Mining Act was briefly explained in DEIS, Sec. 3.5.16.1.

46. The paragraph has been rewritten to clarify this point.

47. The text has been clarified. However, limited information is available about some mineral resources.

48. Revisions in the text include maps.

49. The criteria to establish high/low potentials is now defined. The maps consulted did not have "unknown potential" as a category.

50. "Occupancy trespass" refers to land line survey and not to minerals.

51. This level of detail was not provided in this planning effort because public input did not indicate a great concern or interest in minerals. Forest and district files contain this information.

52 S&G 122 has been clarified and changed to S&G 140 in the Final Plan Thank you for your comment.

53. S&G 134 has been clarified and changed to S&G 152 in the Final Plan. Geothermal areas will not be included on the mineral status map. Their location can be found on maps in our files.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

BOARD OF FORESTRY

1416 NINTH STREET
P.O. BOX 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 445-2921



January 9, 1987

Mr. James L. Boyington
Forest Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
1130 "O" Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Boyington:

The California State Board of Forestry (Board) has completed the review of the Sierra National Forest Draft Management Plan. Several areas of concern were identified during this review process. Based on these concerns, the Board approved and supports several recommendations which we believe need to be addressed in the final management plan for the Sierra National Forest.

By law, the Board is charged with representing the state's interests in federal land matters pertaining to forestry.

The Board has approached the plan in the belief that the Sierra should be positioned to meet the needs of the people of California in the coming decade. Our analysis indicates that demands for more recreation, a reliance on the forest for local revenue, and a well-protected biological base are all part of that position.

The Sierra Draft Plan and Draft Environmental Statement were compared with the five issue areas developed at the Board of Forestry's Centennial Conferences of March and December of 1985. The issues identified are: 1) rural economic stability and development, 2) protection and maintenance of the biological base, 3) social pressures on the rural land base, 4) rights and responsibilities of public and private ownership; and 5) coordination and planning.

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As a result, 11 areas of concern were identified for this region of the state. These areas are: 1) visual resource protection; 2) annual sale quantity; 3) timber mortality; 4) reforestation backlog; 5) research needs; 6) wild and scenic rivers, 7) recreation; 8) fire protection; 9) hardwoods; 10) the budget; and 11) aggregate review. These issues were used by the Board to evaluate each alternative and to help determine which alternative would best meet the needs of this region of the state. The results of this analysis and the Board's recommendations are listed below

Recommendations

1. The Alternative

All the Alternatives presented meet the standards required in the laws and regulations for protection of the broad range of resources the forest represents.

The Preferred Alternative was developed to provide the best response between commodity outputs, resource protection, and protection of amenity values. We can reasonably support the Preferred Alternative (A) but with reservation. Several concerns have been identified and recommendations proposed which should be incorporated into the final selected alternative. Those recommendations are listed in items 2 through 13.

2. Visual Resource Protection

The socio-economic impact resulting from modifying silvicultural practices to meet a perceived visual objective desired is significant.

1

Page 3-69 DEIS states that one principal limitation to achieving higher timber production goals (and therefore improved economic performance) is visual resource protection. Page 3-22 DEIS states that no specific statistical analysis of the demand for visual quality is available, and the presence of strong demand can be inferred from a variety of sources. Page 7-43 APPENDIX states that present management and public expectations of the foreground are that no activities are visually evident.

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Our concern is that overly restrictive requirements are being applied to productive timberland which are more restrictive than the public expects. Landscape protection practices may not represent the actual demands of the public. Visual protection should be based on an objective study. Present perceptions of public demands may be too conservative.

2

We recommend a study to provide a statistical analysis of the public's expectations for visual quality. We recommend that the body of requirements presently utilized for landscape protection be amended based on the study's findings. This study should be included as an additional research need in Appendix B, pg 6-3 Plan. The Sierra National Forest should seek to practice regulated uneven-aged management within the areas that are shown in the plan as requiring restrictions due to visual significance.

3. Annual Sale Quantity (ASQ)

- A. It appears the annual sale quantity in Alternative A could be adjusted upward for the following reasons:
- 1) Current forest productivity appears to support a higher level of production;
 - 2) To improve economic indicators,
 - 3) To increase Receipts Acts payments to the three dependent counties; and
 - 4) To improve stability of the local economies.

3

We therefore recommend a full explanation as to why the ASQ in Alternative A should not be increased, incorporating items 1-4 above in the discussion. This information should be made public before approval of the plan. Our Southern District Technical Advisory Committee contends that the ASQ should be about 136 MMBF.

4

- B. The planning documents identify a large discrepancy in the allowable sale quantity for Alternative A. Table 2.23, pg 2-141 DEIS lists 125.2 MMBF for the first decade. However, the "Planned 10-year Total" shown on Table C.06, pg 6-28 plan shows 998.2 MMBF or about 100 MMBF annually.

We recommend that the DEIS and the forest plan be amended to identify the correct planned volume, and this information made public before approval of the plan.

5

- C. Table 5.01 in the Draft Plan specifies a monitoring program for keeping track of the annual timber harvest volumes. The Sierra intends to monitor the volume at the end of the first five years of the plan and would be satisfied to be within 15% of the annual harvest at that time. If the Sierra is 15% below the budgeted five year sale quantity, it is expected that this could adversely effect local communities.

It is recommended that the monitoring level on timber sale volume be reduced from plus or minus 15% in five years to plus or to minus 5% in five years in order to emphasize the importance of maintaining the level of harvest to provide economic stability for rural economies.

4. Timber Mortality

6

Neither the Forest Plan nor DEIS identify the volume of mortality that exists and could be utilized. The volume of mortality generated annually or over a 10-year period is undoubtedly substantial.

We recommend the DEIS be amended to identify the volume of annual mortality. The discussion should include management practices used to capture this loss. A "nonchargeable volume" should be added to the timber resource element, Table 2.24 DEIS.

5. Reforestation Backlog

7

The planning documents are not clear concerning the possible existence of a reforestation backlog. We note on pgs 3-58 and 3-69 DEIS that the old plan had an implied regeneration harvest level of 5,200 acres annually. The average annual acreage planted over the life of that plan was 1,400 acres. Page vii DEIS states that recent harvesting levels cannot be maintained without intensifying timber management. Because of these statements and others, we sense a backlog of land exists that requires reforestation. If this is the case we believe the acreage of evenaged management planned for Alternative A cannot be regenerated based on prior performance. Further, a backlog will surely affect other management activities.

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We recommend clarification of the existence of a reforestation backlog. The discussion should include how the problem will be corrected now and if the acreage of evenaged management scheduled for Alternative A can be regenerated on a timely basis.

6. Research Needs

In addition to the need for visual quality research, two additional subjects require aggressive and committed investigation. By identifying these, we are not discounting those listed in Appendix B, pg 6-3 plan.

A. Spotted Owl

8

The PRF Alternative recommends 108 owl territories (Table 2.23, pg 2-141 DEIS). However, the Draft Plan provides for 18 territories in the commercial forest zone and 6 territories in wilderness. We support a viable spotted owl population; however, studies indicate conflicting information on habitat requirements. Apparently little conclusive data is available concerning the owl's habitat needs or the dispersal habits of the young birds. A great deal more information is needed about the owl and its environmental requirements. The values are so great that the Forest Service must develop an accurate spotted owl information base.

We recommend that the Forest Service pursue an aggressive research program to resolve questions on spotted owl management and habitat needs.

B. Biomass

9

Periodic removal of biomass from the forest generates questions and concerns about depletion of soil fertility and impact on soil productivity. These questions and concerns should not wait for another major environmental controversy to develop before the need for an aggressive research effort is fully recognized and supported. We strongly support research item #17, Appendix B, pg 6-4 of the plan.

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7. Wild and Scenic Rivers

10

The Preferred Alternative recommends increasing the wild and scenic river designation from 0 to 225 miles of river. The economic and cultural consequences of this proposal need to be fully understood by the public before incorporation into the final alternative.

We recommend that full disclosure of the economic and cultural consequences of the addition of 225 miles of river to the wild and scenic river system be made public before approval of the final plan.

8. Recreation

11

The DEIS does not identify recreational priorities in a brief, clearly understandable, itemized format. We did discover that funding has decreased, and demand is projected to increase. We note that lack of parking and sanitation facilities is a common problem over much of the forest (pg 3-17 DEIS). Many picnic sites need rehabilitation.

We recommend correcting sanitation deficiencies and parking congestion problems, rehabilitating existing campgrounds and developing additional campgrounds based on need.

9. Fire Protection

12

The Preferred Alternative proposes for its fire management program: 68 percent for initial attack, 20 percent for prevention, 1 percent for detection, and 11 percent for fuels management. The Alternative does not clearly identify the priorities for fuels management, and if the program will be directed away from areas where the greatest benefits would occur. We note that 33 percent of the program budget went to prevention in the Current Alternative, while 20 percent is set aside for prevention in Alternative A.

We are concerned where the reductions in prevention activities will be made in the current prevention program. Are reductions to be made near residential areas or where the incidence of fire is the greatest? And what does 68 percent initial attack mean? Is the forest considering funding through CDF's Green Book Allocation?

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13

In discussing fire protection, the DEIS is written as if the forest existed in isolation from the outside world. We believe that the proper context is that it exists as part of a larger community.

It is recommended that:

- A. The chosen alternative be amended to identify what protection and educational efforts will be used to protect high dollar investment areas from fire loss.
- B. The fuels management and fire protection proposals from the entire region need to be analyzed in aggregate to determine what effects the inconsistencies in forest programs will have on the ability of the state and the Forest Service to control major fires, especially during peak fire weather conditions.

10. Hardwoods

14

It has been observed that the Sierra's approach to oak retention for the benefit of the deer population appears significantly different than the proposed programs for the Stanislaus, Tahoe, and the Sierra National Forests. It is recommended that the oak-hardwood retention programs be reviewed in aggregate with other national forests. The reasons for different hardwood retention standards between adjacent forests must be clearly stated and understood before approval of the final plan.

11. Budget

Funding is probably the most critical issue in the national forest planning process. Each forest has indicated that the proposed plans present only targets that the forest feels could be attained if funding were available. Further, most planners appear to be in agreement that forests do not have any obligation to maintain production at the proposed levels if there is insufficient funding. It is impossible to determine what the long-term effects will be on the people of the State of California given budget constraints of the Forest Service.

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15

It is recommended that the final plan explain in detail the fall back position in the event that the selected alternative is not fully funded. Our recommended priorities, given fewer dollars, would be to first, protect the biological base; second, ensure a stable flow of logs to the forest products industry; and third, provide for increased recreational opportunities. We believe the final plan should reflect these priorities at a reduced budget level.

12. Aggregate Review

16

The impact counties contain two other national forests (Stanislaus and Sequoia). These Forest Service lands have a significant impact on these counties. The inability to review these plans simultaneously is a significant limitation because aggregate effects of the final plans could be significant.

17

We recommend that in order to resolve this concern, aggregates of plans by economic region be reviewed before final decisions on preferred alternatives are made for individual national forests.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft plan.

Sincerely,

Harold R. Walt

Harold R. Walt
Chairman

cc Zane G. Smith

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Board of Forestry**

RESPONSES:

1. Studies relating to public expectations of visual quality verses property value are being conducted by the Forest Service through the Pacific Southwest Experimental Station. The results of the studies will be used in future revisions.

2. The desired visual character for the retention area is to grow and maintain oldgrowth tree characteristics. Depending on site conditions, trees need to grow between 180-250 years to obtain these characteristics. Regardless of the silvicultural method used, extending rotation ages to these lengths causes a reduction in the ASQ.

3. The final ASQ is a lower production level than envisioned in the DEIS (125.6 MM) and lower than the historical average (133MMBF) because it responds to changes in management direction that provides greater protection to other resources. It also recognizes past designation by Congress of timber land into wilderness. Timber management will be conducted on 328,900 acres of the Forest's 393,700 acres identified as tentatively capable, available and suitable for timber production.

4. Thank you for pointing out the discrepancy between the volumes shown in Table 2.24 and the ASQ. This will be corrected.

5. The purpose of monitoring is to focus on indicators that suggest that the entire plan needs review. In other words if the average sell during the five years is plus or minus 15%, the whole plan is reviewed and revised, if needed. In the Forest's opinion, a variance of 5% would not be significant enough to warrant this effort and expense. However, the Forest shares your concerns and has developed internal systems to ensure that the ASQ is met.

6. The final Plan and final EIS include volumes of mortality.

7. Many of the responses received raise the question of whether or not the Forest has been reforesting clearcuts, and also all regeneration cuts in the red fir type with a success level high enough to justify the proposed harvest levels in these two situations.

Clearcutting will only be proposed in the ponderosa pine and mixed conifer types so the reforestation record in these situations is most important in determining the results that can be expected with this type of harvesting. The Mariposa and Pineridge Districts have been planting recent clearcuts in ponderosa pine and mixed conifer significantly more than the other two Districts, so their record is indicative of what can be expected. Starting with 1981, 55% of the acres have been certified as successful, 1982: 85%, 1983: 61%, 1984: 85%, and 1985: 81%, as of January 1988.

In the case of reforesting the red fir type, the Forest cannot point to a string of successes, but rather to a trend. The trend is anchored by knowing the technical requirements to do the job, such as providing shade with a shelterwood, controlling gopher depredation, and high-quality site preparation. When these technical aspects come together as they have been on the Pineridge District since 1983, it is evident that the red fir type can be reforested with careful attention to detail and some extra time.

8. The Forest agrees with your recommendation. Research is continuing on the Spotted owl through the Forest Service Spotted Owl Research Development and Application Program.

9. Thank you for your support.

10. Full disclosure of the economic and cultural consequences of adding 222 miles to the W/S river system is shown in the draft LMP in the Appendix, pp. 7-73 to 7-157.

11. The Forest agrees that S&G 6 in the Draft Plan stipulates an increase in developed site capacity of about 7% by year 2,000. Parking, congestion, and sanitation problems are most prevalent in areas heavily used by winter recreationists. S&G 16 in the Draft Plan provides parking and sanitation facilities for snowplay, snowmobiling, and cross-country ski areas.

12. Priorities for fuel management will be more specifically defined during plan implementation. Reduction or manipulation of fuels related to timber harvest will be first, fuelbreaks near populated areas will be second, and wildlife and grazing enhancement will be third. The Plan calls for continued and increased cooperation with other agencies. During initial attack against fires, 68% of fire resources or budget will be allocated.

13. a) The identification of protection and educational efforts to protect high dollar investment areas from fire loss will be contained in the Fire Management Action Plan, which is currently being assembled.

b) It is not our intention to hold up Forest Plans based upon aggregate effects determination. Individual forest plans provide an acceptable protection program. These cost efficient programs are intended to give protection, organization, and allow for consistency with other resource programs for each Forest. The National Fire Management Analysis process is used to determine these cost efficient programs. The fire programs are not expected to meet all peak weather conditions that are experienced on other units. The Forest Service uses a "total mobility" concept utilizing Forest Service resources nationwide.

In addition to Forest Service resources, there are other federal agencies that provide resources. The Forest relies on cooperation from state agencies, Office of Emergency Services, county, city, and independent fire districts. The mobility concept provides a sound protection capability to

all agencies at a lesser cost than if each agency were to meet its own peak workload independently

14 This is a Forest planning effort designed to meet local needs of each Forest. However, there is coordination and information sharing between Forests. For example, Sierra's oak retention standards are similar to Sequoia's and somewhat less stringent than the Stanislaus'. Our standard was agreed to through the ID team decision making process. Both wildlife and timber interests were well represented in all ID team meetings. The standard does not meet all timber management expectations nor does it meet all the needs for wildlife. The decisions reached will maintain acceptable wildlife habitat, yet produce fairly high timber yields.

15 and 16. Your recommendations have been considered and a budget section has been added to the Appendix of the final EIS

17 While your suggestion provides an opportunity to review plans for an adequate affect, it has the disadvantage of holding up all plans until the last one is completed. The Forest has been developing this Plan since 1979 at considerable expense. We are extremely anxious to complete the process. The Sequoia Plan has been published, and because of devastating fires in 1987, the Stanislaus National Forest will not be completed until 1989 or 1990. Delay of the Forest Plan until the Stanislaus has completed their plan is unacceptable by regional and national direction.



GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN
GOVERNOR

State of California
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH
1400 TENTH STREET
SACRAMENTO 95814

1543 & 1717

916/323-7480

DATE: January 12, 1987

TO: Mr. James Boynton
U.S. Forest Service
1130 O Street
Fresno, CA 93721

FROM: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse

RE: SCH 86090801---Draft Land and Resources Management Plan and EIS,
Sierra National Forest.

As the designated California Single Point of Contact, pursuant to Executive Order 12372, the Office of Planning and Research transmits attached comments as the State Process Recommendation.

This recommendation is a consensus; no opposing comments have been received. Initiation of the "accommodate or explain" response by your agency is, therefore, in effect.

Sincerely,

Huston T. Carlyle, Jr.
Director, Office of Planning and Research

Attachment

cc: Applicant

DETAILED COMMENTS

Comments, Land and Resource Management Plan:

Page 3-5, Wild and Scenic Rivers:
(also Standard No. 29)

- 1 The Department concurs with the Forest's stated intent to withhold management activities within the identified Wild and Scenic River corridors, which could preclude eventual Congressional designation. As you are aware, the State Fish and Game Commission has taken action to designate two of the identified stream reaches as Wild Trout Streams. We have developed management plans for these streams, in cooperation with the Forest, and believe our objectives are consistent with the Forest's current proposed action.

Page 3-7, Paragraph 1:

- 2 We disagree that there is limited opportunity to improve streams with low quality aquatic habitat. Habitat degradation results largely from non-responsive management, associated either with commodity production or public recreation (Page 3-6, paragraph 1). Damage, caused by these activities, can be repaired and, over a period of years, habitat quality and fishery productivity can be restored. We believe the Forest should follow the lead of the Eldorado National Forest and take an aggressive role in (1) inventorying habitats which have been degraded or damaged, (2) identifying corrective measures needed, (3) budgeting and developing projects to recover damaged habitats, and (4) implementing Standards and Guidelines to prevent additional, future damage to existing degraded and productive areas.

We recommend that available sources of funding be utilized for habitat restoration, as described above. In addition to County Fish and Game fine revenues (as indicated in DEIS 2-25 and Standard No. 33), we believe a portion of the cost should be born by those responsible for the damage. These should include assessments made upon timber harvest (such as KV Money) or in the form of increased assessments made upon grazing permittees.

P. 3-8, Diversity:

- 3 Under the preferred alternative, the old-growth Ponderosa Pine type will increase over current conditions, while old-growth mixed conifer type will decrease substantially. This is due to the planned conversion of mixed conifer stands to Ponderosa Pine, and silvicultural practices emphasizing even-aged, low-diversity management. Long-rotation, large diameter, late seral stage, mixed conifer stands represent an important wildlife habitat component. As such, the Department does not support the planned reductions of up to 60 percent of these stands, as proposed.

We recommend that Standard No. 99 be revised to assure that Ponderosa Pine, mixed conifer and Red Fir species composition will be maintained at close to current levels. Further, we recommend that seral stage 4c (old growth) composition be maintained at or near current levels for all vegetation types.

(Please also see our comments, ref. Page 4-29)

Page 3-9, Sensitive Plants:

We recommend inclusion of the following standards for protection of known sensitive plant populations.

- 4
1. Sensitive plant species, although not subject to the provisions of the Endangered Species Act, will receive special management to prevent their placement on federal lists, as discussed in FS Manual 2670.3.
 2. The Forest will develop species management guides for sensitive plants. These guides will function as "recovery plans" defining activity constraints in essential habitat and the specific needs for monitoring of land allocation and manipulation.
 3. The Forest will actively pursue status determination and long-term protection of sensitive plants.
 4. The Forest inventory of sensitive plants will be completed before the next round of Forest Planning.

Page 4-2, Paragraph 5:

- 5
- Recognizing that the public lands may represent the principal areas which will be available in the future to support fish and wildlife, we are concerned with the interpretation and use of "viability", as a standard applied to the maintenance of resident and migratory species populations. If habitat is managed in such manner that these populations are reduced to bare "viability" (survival) levels, the reduced populations would be of little value to the general public. We believe it is not enough just to know that wildlife populations will not be lost. The public also has a right to utilize these resources for consumptive and nonconsumptive purposes. The "viability" standard will simply not provide for such utilization unless it is clearly stated that "viability" embraces all historic and projected uses in addition to mere survival. We recommend that habitat be managed with a goal to maintain or improve all present fish and wildlife populations as called for in the California Fish and Game Code. We note that population levels are already severely reduced from historic conditions for some species.

Page 4-2 Standard No. 63:

- 6 We believe it is very important to recognize the down-watershed effects of streamside disturbance, even in the smallest of ephemeral tributaries. It is therefore important to establish firm protective standards for streams of all sizes and classes.

Page 4-21, 4.5.2.5 Fish and Wildlife:

- 7 We recommend inclusion here, of an additional standard which affords specific protection to known Willow Flycatcher habitats. This standard should involve regulation of the timing and distribution of grazing, including structural controls, where indicated.

Page 4-22, Standard No. 35:

- 8 We believe protection of identified nest sites of sensitive species should be provided at all times, rather than just ". . . until they are unoccupied by young", as proposed. The recent court decisions in the case of the Palila, an endangered bird on Hawaii, indicate a higher standard of sensitive species protection is necessary. Depending upon the species involved, particular cases (nests) may warrant formulation of specific management standards, in order to assure their continued use.

Page 4-22, Standards No. 36 and 37:

- 9 The Department concurs with these two standards, identifying the Forest's general objectives to obtain (1) instream flows suitable for maintenance of pre-project fish and wildlife conditions in the development of new hydroelectric projects and (2) improvement of degraded conditions in relicensing actions for existing projects. This general approach is quite consistent with the goals and objectives of the Department.

Page 4-23 Standard No. 44:

- 10 The standards for management of snags and down-logs appear to satisfy the minimum requirements for maintaining viable populations of wildlife species which depend upon these habitat types. Reductions in the numbers of snag-dependent species, such as cavity nesting birds will, however, occur under the planned retention standards. Such reductions are contrary to RPA goals. Further, there is no standard which provides for continued snag/down-log densities over extended time periods.

We agree that hard snags should be "well distributed through the compartment", as stated under 44f. However this appears to be in conflict with 44h., which requires concentration of snags in areas near streams, meadows and the edges of openings. Both of these considerations are important, but to provide both would require hard snag retention standards somewhat greater than the proposed average level of 2 snags per acre. In addition, all "soft" snags should be retained, as recommended in Ag. Handbook #533, Page 66.

11 To be properly distributed, snag placement should be determined on a site-by-site basis and be based upon planning increments of small (less than 50 acres) size. Retention of snags would thereby be planned in much the same manner as silvicultural site prescriptions.

We concur with use of the "clump" approach, as proposed, however we recommend that the above clarification be provided, regarding distribution and replacement. In addition, specific snag management zone standards are needed to identify what, if any, disturbance factors would be allowed.

Page 4-23 Standard No. 46a:

12 This standard requires the maintenance of mast-producing oaks in numbers "proportional to the current inventory". This statement is unclear. On designated timber lands, it could result in severe reductions in the abundance of oaks wherever other vegetative components are also substantially reduced. This would produce an unacceptable change in wildlife species composition. Together with oak reductions allowed under Standard 46c. (75 percent), impacts upon a broad variety of wildlife species could be very great.

13 We recommend the oak retention standards for non-critical deer habitat be increased to a minimum of 15 percent crown closure, or 25 percent of existing crown closure, (both) as averaged over areas not exceeding 40 acres in size. In addition, specific restocking measures need to be identified to assure an adequate long-term oak supply.

Page 4-23 Standard No. 46b:

Under this standard, within identified critical deer habitat, up to 50 percent of the existing oak stands could be removed, down to the minimum retention standard of 20 percent crown closure. Loss of this mast production would reduce available forage for deer and other wildlife. It would reduce the Forest's capability to achieve the recovery goals of the North Kings and other deer herd plans.

In identified deer habitats we recommend a minimum oak retention standard of 40 percent crown closure, where present, or 50 percent of the existing crown closure, whichever is greater. This should be determined, based upon averages over areas not exceeding 40 acres in size.

P. 4-25, Standard No. 62:

14 While we agree that an inflexible 100-foot-on-each-side SMZ standard may not always be well-suited to individual site characteristics, we are concerned over the allowance of discretionary encroachment into protective zones, based upon

development of an individual Environmental Assessment. Site-to-site variation in zone width could become very difficult to enforce, especially if the standard was to vary within individual timber sales or other activities. We recommend that firm and more protective guidelines be adopted which establish the SMZ requirements for Class I, II and III streams. We note the following SMZ recommendations of other, similar national forests in California.

1. SMZ Guidelines as Recommended by Eldorado National Forest

Guidelines For Establishing SMZ Widths

Stream Class	Stability ^{2/} Soil/Slope	Recommended Width From Streambank	
		Perennial	Intermittent
I	Stable	200-300	150-250
	Unstable	300-600+	250-500+
II	Stable	100-200	100-150+
	Unstable	200-400+	150-300+
III	Stable	100-150	100-100+
	unstable	100-250+	100-200+

Widths shown are in feet and represent one side of the stream only.

^{2/}Within the SMZ ground cover density shall not be reduced below 60 percent for stable watershed conditions and 70 percent for all other conditions.

2. SMZ Guidelines as Recommended by Sequoia National Forest

Stream Class	Slope in Percent				
	0-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70
I	100	130	160	190	220
II	75	105	135	165	195
III	50	80	110	140	170
IV	25	45	65	85	105

15

If the 100-foot (on each side) SMZ is to be used, as proposed, we recommend that (1) no timber be removed within 100 feet of the edge of any stream, except for the benefit of riparian or aquatic habitat values, (2) that any such harvest not be a part of the Forest's scheduled timber harvest program, and (3) that ground cover (duff, litter, plants, etc.) be maintained within the SMZ to afford surface erosion protection.

16

We further recommend that the standards for riparian area management (Section 4.5.2.5 LRMP P 4-25) be applied to all wetland and wet meadow areas on the Forest. We recognize that management within the protective "ring" around meadows requires variation, due to soil, slope, and species microhabitat conditions. Varying crown closures, for example, may be needed between different emphasis bird species. In some cases, this could require careful removal of specific trees, or other modifications to the habitat. For the benefit of wildlife and the meadow ecosystem, we recommend that such variation be allowed, within the 100-foot protective zone. Disturbance should only take place (1) based upon pre-defined criteria, (2) only when wildlife or the meadow system would benefit from the changes and (3) only after consultation with a qualified wildlife biologist.

We concur with a number of the standards proposed in the Plan for protection of riparian systems. Specifically, these include Numbers 57 and 58 (new road and travel route exclusion), 59 (fish and wildlife management emphasis) and 60 (maintenance/enhancement). We also concur with Standard No. 30 (pages 4-21, 22), regarding water drafting.

We believe these guidelines could be strengthened by inclusion of the following additional conditions:

- e. Prohibit permanent or substantial physical modifications of streambeds to facilitate drafting.
- f. Prohibit "topping-off" and overflow of trucks to prevent surf-acre erosion and stream sedimentation, or provide overflow/erosion containment measures at drafting sites.
- g. Establish drafting sites, based upon consultation with a fisheries biologist.
- h. Prohibit all drafting from streams inhabited by listed threatened or endangered species, to prevent their accidental "take" into pumps or degradation of their habitat.

Page 4-26, Standards No. 64, 68 and 72; Range Management:

17

Range management on the Forest has the capability to modify habitat values for both wildlife and fisheries. In some locations, livestock have overgrazed riparian ecosystems, trampled streambanks (see Page 3-6, paragraph 1) and eliminated cover and forage required by wildlife in meadows and other areas. The distribution of livestock is difficult to control, as fencing and other structural controls are expensive to construct and maintain. As a result, stock tend to congregate in wet and dry meadows and riparian corridors, where their interface with wildlife is intensified. Decreased production of wildlife and fisheries has resulted, including reductions in identified sensitive species, such as Willow Flycatchers.

18 It is apparent that even at the Forest's present allotment of 35,000 AUMs, there is need for structural livestock controls to be installed and maintained in specific locations. We believe this control should be provided at the expense of the grazing program, which under Multiple Use Direction, has the responsibility to minimize avoidable adverse effects upon other forest resources/uses. This approach to funding would be consistent with the direction stated in Standard 76, Page 4-26.

19 We recognize that planned increases to 44,100 AUMs represents recovery of use which historically has been present, but in recent years has been inactive, due to conditions in livestock marketing. Even at the present 35,000 AUM level, however, we have collected data indicating wildlife problems, related to livestock/wildlife competition. It is therefore logical that additional AUMs should only be allowed following successful (and environmentally sound) type conversion of new range and improvement of range which already exists.

20 Standard No. 68 would permit increased winter and early spring grazing on low elevation, annual grass ranges and new type conversions (converted oak-chaparral). If winter increases in grazing are scheduled before mid-January (when new green forage appears), adverse competition for acorns and other seed forage would occur. This could have effects upon deer ovulation rates and fetal condition, which could affect the ability of presently depressed herds to recover.

Studies of the North Kings Deer Herd indicate that deer ovulation rates and fawn fetal condition may be lessened, among does forced to compete with cattle on the winter range. These factors can result in lower overall fawn production. It follows, therefore, that it may be difficult to recover deer herd numbers, faced with increased winter livestock competition.

Page 4-28, Standard No. 90:

21 We are concerned about the requirements regarding the timing of management of adjacent timber regeneration units. Although Standard No. 90b provides a 660-foot buffer zone separating any two adjacent regeneration units, this standard appears only to apply for a period of about three years, until restocking is complete. (Standard 90c would allow adjacent cutting, after the older unit becomes restocked with timber of 4 1/2-foot height). Intensive release management is also planned on these areas for the first three years, in order to meet the stocking requirements in Standard No. 88. Competing vegetation (of value to wildlife) would therefore be eliminated during that period.

Wildlife will face loss of use of the regeneration areas (up to 40 acres in size) for the three year period, after which vegetation would be allowed to re-invade the stand. Before that vegetation is reestablished however (2 to 3 years), all adjacent

stands could be cut and release management begun. This tight scheduling virtually negates the value of the intended separation corridors as originally intended, and significant reductions in wildlife habitat will result.

- 22** We recommend that regeneration areas be managed and buffered as "openings" until native shrubs and forbs have become well re-established (2 to 3 years following the termination of release). This timeframe could be shortened by (1) managing native vegetation within the regeneration areas earlier in the restocking period or (2) active planting of native vegetation within regeneration areas at the time restocking is achieved.

Page 4-28, Standard No. 92:

- 23** Providing 70 percent mineral soil may be the best way to optimize conifer seed germination, however it can cause problems for wildlife and aquatic resources. Scarification of soil, followed by multi-year release management will effectively remove land from wildlife production/use for the restocking period (actually much longer, until conifers reach sufficient height to allow space for competing vegetation).

Open soil areas can also cause serious erosion and downstream sedimentation problems, when they are located on steep slopes or unstable soil types. Additional standards are needed to (1) contain erodible soil on-site, (2) prevent scarification of soil on slopes exceeding 25 percent, (3) prohibit scarification in areas where there is high risk of watershed sedimentation and (3) hasten the reinvasion of natural vegetation to benefit wildlife and soil conservation.

Page 4-28, Standard 97:

- 24** The text is unclear. Must all five criteria be met before uneven age management is permitted, or are the criteria intended only as considerations?

Page 4-29, Diversity, Standard 99:

- 25** The text is not specific about the method of measuring the five percent of each type to be retained. Is measurement based upon land area, crown closure, vegetation composition or some other parameter?

- 26** The five percent retention standard for Stage 2 (shrub/seedling/sapling) seral stage appears to be very low. Although all regeneration areas would appear to qualify for meeting this standard, we note that they would not in fact have any shrub habitat, during the required restocking period.

The standard for old growth (Stage 4C+) also appears to be very low. It will allow a large reduction in habitat, which will result in significant reductions in the numbers of many old growth-dependent species.

Page 4-30, Standard 107:

27

We recommend that the ID Team used for consideration of steep slope tractor logging should include a fishery biologist or hydrologist to evaluate the possible effects of the activity upon the downstream watershed and fishery resources. Particular care should be taken in areas having unstable soils; or which are adjacent (immediately upslope) from watersheds inhabited by threatened or endangered aquatic species.

Chapter 5.0, Monitoring and Evaluation Requirements:

28

In general, we concur with the planned monitoring activities and budgets, as planned. In particular, we support the concept of monitoring species/habitat guilds, as indicated in the table on pages 5-6 and 5-7. We suggest that guilds also be considered to represent snag/cavity dependent species, oak-chaparral species and foothill riparian species. All of these habitats would be affected by features of the Plan, as drafted.

Memorandum

To : Gordon K. Van Vleck
Secretary for Resources

Date : January 8, 1987

Attn: Gordon F. Snow
Projects Coordinator

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject: SCH No. 86090801 Sierra National Forest Draft Land and Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) has reviewed the Draft Land and Resource Management Plan (Plan) and Draft EIS, as issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Sierra National Forest. Herein we have addressed major areas of general agreement and concern.

29


We are guided by the California Fish and Game Commission Policy on National Forests and the Commission Policy on Land Use Planning to review, coordinate and provide comment on the consistency of this and other plans with the Department's plans, programs and other responsibilities for the State's fish and wildlife resources. While we recognize the difficulty in developing a plan of this magnitude and the multiple use constraints imposed upon the Sierra National Forest, we must point out that the Plan, as drafted, would result in long- and short-term reductions in the State's wildlife resources. It, therefore, is not generally consistent with the objectives of the Department.

The Department staff in Region 4 has provided the Sierra National Forest with substantial information and consultation pertaining to fish and wildlife resources within the Forest which are affected either beneficially or adversely by the various proposed goals, prescriptions and activities in this Plan. Recently, this has involved meetings with the Forest staff, along with the staffs of two other adjacent forests, the Stanislaus and Sequoia National Forests. This group consultation has resulted in improved understanding of the issues and proposed actions and consequently has resolved many concerns. There remain a number of significant issues which either (1) could not be resolved in the consultation process or (2) were resolved; however, (due to publication deadlines) the result could not be documented or addressed in the Draft Plan as issued. We have addressed both types of the remaining issues here, in detail, for the consideration of the Forest.

30

In this comment letter we have addressed specific issues regarding the Land and Resource Management Plan. While we have thoroughly reviewed the accompanying Draft EIS, we have not specifically referred to sections of that document. Rather, we have incorporated and considered information from the DEIS in our attached detailed comments, which we have keyed to the corresponding sections of the Plan. In general, we regard the DEIS as an adequate disclosure document.

The attached comprise our comments on the Draft Plan and DEIS, as issued. We recognize that the Forest has a difficult job of allocating land and resources among competing interests and activities. We have put a significant effort into working cooperatively with the Forest toward solutions to the many issues and we are encouraged by the progress achieved so far. We intend to continue that spirit of cooperation in an attempt to achieve our mutual, as well as our separate objectives. Our staff will be made available to the Forest, upon request, to clarify any aspect of these comments. Inquiries should be addressed to George D. Nokes, Regional Manager, 1234 E. Shaw, Fresno, CA, 93710; telephone (209) 222-3761.


Jack C. Parnell
Director

Attach.

cc: Harold Cribbs, California Fish and Game Commission

Memorandum

Date : DEC -1 1986

To : A-38
Gordon F. Snow
Assistant Secretary for Resources
The Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From : Department of Water Resources

Subject : Sierra National Forest Management Plan (SCH 86090801)

The Department of Water Resources has reviewed the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the forest land and resource management plan for the Sierra National Forest. We offer the following comments for your consideration.

31

The Department is interested in the water quality and water supply aspects of the proposed plan. As indicated on page 4-80 of the EIS, increases in the base annual runoff of 2,600,000 acre-feet would range from 0.3 to 3.3 percent (8,000 to 86,000 acre-feet). Although the range of effects of the alternative plans is not great, Alternatives C, F, H, and I appear to be superior to Alternative A from the standpoint of water resources management.

The EIS indicates that runoff would vary significantly during a five-decade study, and it is possible that the higher runoff would occur during wet years and that decreases or small increases would occur during dry years. The reliability of the increased yield would be improved if the management plan included a policy to coordinate timber harvest, reforestation, fuel management, and range improvement to maintain the annual amount of increased yield as nearly constant as possible. Unless such reliability is assured, the increased yield may have little value for surface water supply or hydroelectric energy.

Sediment is the major cause of water quality impairment and, when trapped by reservoirs, can diminish dependable water supplies and hydroelectric energy production. Protection of reservoirs from undue sedimentation should be a top priority for watershed management and is a prospective benefit of this plan that should be considered in the economic analysis of the alternative forest plans.

32

On page 3-92, in reference to water yield increase by forest management projects, the EIS states, "If allowed to flow off-site during the dry season, much of this water is consumed by riparian vegetation." We believe this statement should cover the following points: (1) if the flow occurs during the wet season, it may not be usable and at certain times may have an accumulative effect on floodflows and (2) the use of this water by downstream riparian vegetation is considered a beneficial use by persons concerned with maintaining wildlife habitat.

Gordon F. Snow
Page 2
DEC -1 1986

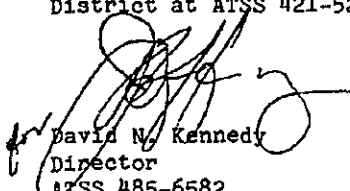
33

There are discrepancies in the discussion of environmental consequences on water yield. The paragraph on page 4-81 preceding the tabulation of total water yield increases for each alternative states that the figures in the tabulation are based on data in Table 4.19. Table 4.19, however, includes information on only two decades. The percentages in the tabulation seem to be based, instead, on data in the tables entitled "Average Annual Outputs During First Five Decades" which are presented in Chapter 2.

34

In the discussion of Alternative C on page 4-81, the average annual increase in water yield should be changed from 0.3 to 2.3 percent. Also, in that same sentence, the increase at the end of decade 5 should be changed from 9,000 to 41,000 acre-feet.

If you have any questions in this regard, please telephone Ken Turner of our Division of Planning at ATSS 485-7565 or Bob Figueroa of our San Joaquin District at ATSS 421-5236.



David N. Kennedy
Director
ATSS 485-6582

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California Conservation Corps
Department of Boating and Waterways
Department of Conservation
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Forestry
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Water Resources

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN
GOVERNOR OF
CALIFORNIA



THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Air Resources Board
California Coastal Commission
California Tahoe Conservancy
California Waste Management Board
Colorado River Board
Energy Resources Conservation
And Development Commission
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission
State Coastal Conservancy
State Lands Division
State Reclamation Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Boards

Mr. James Boynton
U.S. Forest Service
1130 O Street
Fresno, CA 93721

January 12, 1987

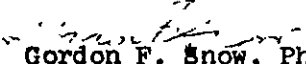
Dear Mr. Boynton:

The State has reviewed the Draft Land and Resources Management Plan and EIS, Sierra National Forest, submitted through the Office of Planning and Research. Review of this document was coordinated with the Reclamation Board, State and Regional Water Boards, and the Departments of Boating and Waterways, Conservation, Fish and Game, Forestry, Parks and Recreation, Water Resources, Health Services, and Transportation.

Attached for your consideration are comments received from the Departments of Fish and Game, Forestry, and Water Resources. These constitute the State's response regarding the subject documents at this time.

Thank you for providing an opportunity to review this project.

Sincerely,


Gordon F. Snow, Ph.D
Assistant Secretary for Resources

Attachments (3)

cc: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

(SCH 86090801)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Office of Planning and Research
Department of Fish and Game

RESPONSES:

1. The Forest appreciates comments from the State Department of Fish and Game. As directed by Congressional act, river management plans will also have to be completed for the newly designated Merced, South Fork Merced, Kings, South Fork Kings, and Middle Fork Kings Rivers. Your developed fisheries management plans for these designated rivers can be coordinated within future Forest river management plans. The details can be worked out at the project level of planning.

2. Yes, opportunities exist to repair past damages. Please see Section 4.0 of the Plan for a description of our intent to complete annual fishery habitat improvements. Aside from using project management dollars and funding from outside sources, the Forest identifies habitat improvement projects included in timber sale packages on a continuous basis with K-V dollars. Our description of low quality aquatic habitat has been modified to more clearly describe areas that do not provide much fish habitat: stream segments that 1) flow subsurface during dry years, 2) experience high summer water temperatures from low flows (detrimental to trout), or 3) are so remote that habitat improvement costs would be prohibitive.

3. Timber harvesting is one of the Forest's multiple uses. Adoption of your suggestion would result in little or no timber cutting, depriving the public of this valuable commodity. However, substantial areas of mixed conifer old-growth, will be retained in SOHAs, riparian areas, retention zones, and wilderness.

Species composition will remain unchanged in both the ponderosa pine and red fir types. However, the mixed conifer type will change, with less white fir and sugar pine in the stands. White fir has increased from lack of fire. White pine blister rust has all but eliminated sugar pine in the stands. Our regional genetics group is presently identifying superior, resistant trees to resolve this problem. A decrease is anticipated in the 4c stage in both the ponderosa pine and red fir types by the fifth decade because of the present age of the stands. A slight increase in the mixed conifer type, resulting from intensive treatment, allows the trees to grow to the 4c stage more quickly.

4. Regional direction and Forest Service policy require management of sensitive plants and their habitats to prevent them from becoming federally-listed as threatened or endangered. The Forest is directed to provide long-term protection by developing Species Management Guides until they are removed from the sensitive plant lists. Direction is not repeated in the Plan. Sensitive plant inventories are expected to be completed before the next revision of this document. This is a continuing process because the

Regional Forester's sensitive plant list is periodically revised.

5. The Plan and final EIS state that habitat should be managed to maintain or improve present fish and wildlife populations. No species can be placed in jeopardy. Therefore, our S&Gs state that all species will be maintained to at least self-sustaining levels.

6. S&Gs listed in the final EIS and the Plan describe the protection to be given to riparian areas and streams. Riparian area protection and streamside management zones are based on methods described in the Forest Service Handbook 2509 22, Sierra Supplement 1. At the project level, stream class ratings, SMZ widths, and minimum ground cover densities are designed to protect the quality of streams.

7. S&Gs for riparian areas have been modified to better protect wildlife habitat. If grazing adversely impacts Willow flycatcher habitat, protection measures, such as the regulation of the timing and distribution of grazing, and structure controls, will be planned and implemented.

8. The "sensitive species" include Willow flycatcher, Goshawk, and Spotted owl, raptor and some mammals. The Forest plans to protect Willow flycatcher nests through implementation of the S&G found in the riparian section of the Plan. Our strategy for protecting Goshawks and Spotted owls includes allocating over 20,000 acres of suitable habitat outside of wilderness. This measure, along with protecting occupied nest sites, will assure the continuation of viable populations of all sensitive species.

9. Thank you for your support.

10. The present distribution of snags is uneven. Some timber compartments are below the recommended density, while others have a snag density exceeding the standard. As the Plan is implemented, the snag density will be more evenly distributed. It is anticipated that this change in snag distribution will maintain the population of primary cavity nesting birds near current levels. Refer to Jack Ward Thomas' Wildlife Habitats in Managed Forests, the Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington, USDA Forest Service Ag. Handbook #553, September 1979.

11. We agree with your comment on assessing snags on a site by site basis. As projects are planned, districts will be required to meet the snag standards on a competent level. Both location, species, and site of snags will be documented as part of the project planning process. No specific snag management areas will be included into the Final Plan. However, snags will be allowed to occur naturally in special management areas, such as Spotted Owl Habitat Areas (SOHAs), geological areas, archeobiological sites, etc.

12. S&G 46 in the Draft Plan has been rewritten.

13. The oak retention standards for critical and noncritical deer habitat is a balance between meeting the needs of wildlife and the needs for other uses of the hardwood resource. The ID team feels this balance was reached and the standards will meet the needs of all oak dependent species. The Forest will manage oaks in timber sale harvest units which normally will not exceed 40 acres in size.
14. Riparian S&Gs have been revised to better reference our use of the FSH 2509.22, Sierra Supplement 1 that establishes SMZ requirements for Class I, II, and III streams.
15. See our revised S&Gs in the final EIS and Plan that describe our riparian management commitments and strategies. On a project level basis, our riparian area protection and SMZ determinations are based on methods described in FSH 2509.22, Sierra Supplement 1, which takes into account stream class, side slope corrections, percent of ground cover, equipment operation, and various other topics. At a recent Forest ID Team meeting, it was decided to keep a minimum annual scheduled harvest in the regulated timber base. The Management emphasis will be the control of insect and disease and the maintenance of riparian dependent resources.
16. Wet meadows will be managed using standards for Class I streams. The most recent changes made to them include many of your suggestions.
17. Several S&Gs have been added to the riparian section of the Plan, giving emphasis to repairing, protecting, and enhancing the riparian ecosystem. As problems such as you describe are identified, they are prioritized and scheduled for repair, often at considerable permittee expense.
18. Grazing allotments contain range improvements, including fences, to control livestock movements and manage the forage resource. Many improvements have been in place for years and identified needed improvements are funded through Range Betterment Funds on a priority basis.
19. Decisions to permit increased AUMs will be based on forage conditions. Our records indicate the annual grass range has improved substantially over the past 30 years and can readily accommodate additional AUMs.
20. The Forest agrees there is a potential for cattle to adversely compete with deer prior to mid-January. Grazing seasons are being actively adjusted to comply with State recommendations.
21. It normally takes a minimum of ten years for a plantation to become fully stocked with trees 4 1/2 feet tall. Provided we were totally successful with our release efforts, browse would have at least seven years of growth prior to the harvest of an adjacent stand.
22. The Forest intends to follow your recommendation within selected deer holding and population centers by managing regeneration areas as openings. Native vegetation would have at least seven years to become established as the trees grow toward 4 1/2 feet.
23. Management practices are generally used that do not leave open areas that can cause serious erosion and downstream sedimentation problems. In areas with steep slopes or unstable soil types, site recommendations generally are to leave a minimum of 50% effective ground cover, with possible increase to 70%. Recommendations on the amount of ground cover to leave are based on research and knowledge of local soils. As indicated in the Order 3 Soil Survey Report, the erosion hazard drops from high to moderate at about 35% slope. The Forest does not generally scarify a site unless natural regeneration is the management prescription, and then only if BMPs can be met and soil productivity maintained. Natural vegetation is encouraged where it does not compete with seedling establishment and growth. Restocking sites with natural tree species immediately after cutting is a priority for continued protection of the watershed.
24. This S&G has been deleted. Uneven-age management will be the preferred silvicultural system on 25,000 acres of CAS lands.
25. The 5% is by land area.
26. The 5% retention standard for Stage 2 seral stage and oldgrowth are regional minimum requirements. In the Plan, projections exceed these minimums for shrub and oldgrowth seral stages in every decade during the 50-year extended Plan.
27. ID teams are developed for each proposed timber sale. The ID teams are composed of resource specialists representing the issues and concerns identified for each project. If it is determined that there is a significant concern for the watershed, a fisheries biologist or hydrologist is included on the ID team. A fishery biologist or hydrologist will always be an ID team member when timber sale activity is proposed in watersheds inhabited by threatened or endangered aquatic species.
28. Thank you for your support. Your concerns for guilds should be eliminated by our monitoring effort. The Forest staff will monitor guilds in mature mixed conifer, meadow edge, oak woodland, and riparian habitats. The habitats you mentioned are components of these.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

29. The Preferred Alternative may not meet all the objectives of the Department. The Plan displays what the Forest considers to be the best mix of activities, outputs, and amenity values to benefit the public in the long run.

30. The Forest appreciates the interest that the CDFG has shown in our planning effort. The staff agrees with a number of your suggestions and incorporated them into the final Plan. The Forest will continue to work with the Regional Manager and his staff to ensure the cooperation displayed during the planning effort continues.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

31. If the only important consideration of the Plan is water yield, then Alternative C, F, H and I would be better than Alternative A. This is not the case. Through Alternative A, the Forest tries to meet the needs to protect and enhance all resources.

32. The statement refers to an increase in water yield and not an increase in runoff. Your point regarding the value of water to riparian vegetation is well taken, and a discussion of the topic is included in the final EIS.

33. These corrections in the Appendix have been made. Percentages were determined from Table 4.19 by the differences of yield at the end of decade five and the best year value of 2.6 MM acre/feet.

34. These changes you suggested have been made.

**Public Works & Development Services Department**Richard D. Welton
Director

January 9, 1987


Mr. James L. Boynton, Forest Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
1130 "O" Street
Fresno, California 93721

Dear Mr. Boynton:

Subject: Proposed Forest Land and Resource Management Plan - Sierra
National Forest

Please include the enclosed December 16, 1986, resolution of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors in the record of public comment for the proposed Forest Land and Resource Management Plan - Sierra National Forest. The Board's resolution supporting the proposed Plan (Alternative "A") increasing annual allowable timber sale quantities from 125 MMBF (million board feet) to 152 MMBF recognizes the importance of the timber industry employment and revenues to Fresno County.

Sincerely,


Carolina Jimenez-Hogg, Manager
Community Development & Planning Division

CJH:MJD:ah
6351C-52

Enclosure

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF FRESNO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED)
FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE)
MANAGEMENT PLAN - SIERRA)
NATIONAL FOREST)

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
INCREASED TIMBER HARVESTS
AND INCREASED FUNDING FOR
MANAGEMENT OF SIERRA
NATIONAL FOREST

WHEREAS, on December 8, and December 16, 1986, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors met to discuss the proposed U.S. Forest Service Forest Land and Resource Management Plan -- Sierra National Forest; and

WHEREAS, representatives of the U.S. Forest Service summarized the market alternative (Alternative "H") and their recommended alternative (Alternative "A"); and

WHEREAS, public testimony was received from building industry and timber industry representatives in support of Alternative "A", modified to allow harvesting of 152-160 MMBF of timber, as allowed under the present Plan, instead of 125 MMBF as provided for under Plan "A"; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the timber industry has a major impact on Fresno County jobs and revenues; and

WHEREAS, information considered at the meetings indicated that the Sierra National Forest can be effectively managed to produce 152-160 MMBF without serious impacts on other resources, although the Forest Service has indicated additional funding for their operations may be necessary for such production.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the U.S. Forest Service adopt a plan which provides for the yearly harvesting of 152 MMBF of timber, with the remainder of the Plan to be identical with Alternative "A"; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors supports increased funding of the U.S. Forest Service budget so that the Sierra National Forest can be managed more effectively and efficiently.

THE FOREGOING was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno this 16th day of December, 1986, to-wit:

AYES: Supervisors Andreen, Conrad, Ramacher, Koligian

NOES: None


ABSENT: Supervisor Levy

Dora Koligian
CHAIRMAN, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

SHARI GREENWOOD CLERK,
Board of Supervisors

By *S. Greenwood*
~~Deputy~~

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO)
I, SHARI GREENWOOD, Clerk to the Board of Supervisors of said County and State, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of the original thereof on file in my office.
Witness my hand and Seal of said Board, this *21st* day of *Dec*, 19*86*

Clerk, Board of Supervisors
By *S. Greenwood* Deputy Clerk

File #7006
Agenda #16
Resolution #86-591

**FRESNO COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
DIVISION**

RESPONSE:

1 Your preference for increasing the ASQ to 152MM was considered during our final analysis. There are trade-offs between the higher levels of timber production in Alternatives C and H and the Preferred Alternative. These trade-offs include effects on fish, wildlife, soils, water, riparian zones, visual and recreational resources, local employment and local government finances. All of these are described in the EIS and were considered in our analysis

Your letter and many others stated that current levels of harvest are too low, and if the ASQ was not raised to approximately 152 MMBF, the revenues and employment in Fresno County would decline

Other respondents gave diverse reasons why the ASQ under the Preferred Alternative was too high. They claim the budget needed to produce this level of harvest is

unrealistically high, and gives an undesirable subsidy to the timber industry because revenues would not cover costs to the government. There were strong objections to using pesticides, clearcutting and harvesting timber on marginal timber land. They point out the potential adverse effects of timber harvest on resources such as Soils, Watershed, Wildlife habitat, and Riparian zones. They request more land be assigned to resources other than timber production. Timber industry advocates claim the amount in the Preferred Alternative is insufficient to support mill operations at levels like those favorable to conditions experienced in 1986, 1987, and 1988. Should favorable market conditions continue for an extended period, uncut timber under contract will continue to decline and this will lead to increased competition and prices.

The views on ASQ are divergent. Some argue for jobs, families, and businesses, while others argue for soil, fish, wildlife, riparian zone, and visual quality. Our responsibility is to weigh all values and needs and select an ASQ that provides a balance between maximizing timber production on lands capable and suitable for growing timber and protecting other values and resources. The Forest has confidence the final ASQ meets this balance.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 REGION IX
 215 Fremont Street
 San Francisco, Ca 94105

Zane G. Smith, Jr.
 Regional Forester
 Pacific Southwest Region
 USDA, Forest Service
 630 Sansome Street
 San Francisco, CA 94111

Dear Mr. Smith:

In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) titled SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN, MARIPOSA, MADERA AND FRESNO COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA. We have the enclosed comments regarding this DEIS.

We have classified this DEIS as Category EC-2, Environmental Concerns - Insufficient Information (see attached "Summary of Rating Definitions and Follow-Up Action"). This DEIS is rated EC-2 because projected Forest activities may result in degradation of riparian areas, water quality and beneficial uses. Further discussion is needed on how conflicts between proposed activities and protection of the Forest's resources will be resolved. A summary of EPA's comments and classification will be published in the Federal Register.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this DEIS. Please send 2 copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to this office at the same time it is officially filed with our Washington, D.C. office. If you have any questions, please contact David Powers, Federal Activities Branch, at (415) 974-8193 or FTS 454-8193.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Murray, Jr.
 Assistant Regional Administrator
 for Policy and Management

Enclosure (5 pages)

Water Quality Comments:

- 1** 1. The DEIS and Forest Plan indicate that the Best Management Practices (BMPs) listed in the Forest Service Handbook and Appendix E of the Forest Plan are the means for protecting water quality in the Sierra National Forest. The 1981 Management Agency Agreement between the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the Forest Service certified that the BMPs developed in the §208 Plan would constitute sound water quality management and that implementation of these practices would constitute compliance with substantive and procedural requirements of state water pollution control law as mandated by §313 of P.L. 95-217. It should be noted, however, that implementation of BMPs does not constitute compliance with water quality standards per se. In the event that a Forest project, undertaken with or without appropriate BMPs, creates a water quality problem or causes a standards violation, the State and Regional Boards retain the authority to carry out their responsibilities for management of environmental quality.

- 2** 2. The Watershed Improvement Needs (WIN) list on page 3-91 of the DEIS identifies the 10 most important water quality problem sites including the site locations and number of acres affected. The WIN list should be expanded to include the remaining 48 sites which have watershed problems. The list should also show how restoration priorities and target deadlines would differ under the various alternatives.

- 3** 3. The FEIS should address compliance with the California Antidegradation Policy. This policy states that "where the existing quality of the water is better than the standards set, that such existing high quality will be maintained until it has been demonstrated to the State that any change will be consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State, will not unreasonably affect present and anticipated beneficial uses of such water and will not result in water quality less than that prescribed in the policies." This policy is reiterated in Federal regulations (40 CFR 131.13(a.2)). The FEIS should evaluate the projected degradation of water quality due to cumulative watershed impacts from prescribed burning, firewood gathering, new road and trail construction, grazing, mineral extraction, dam construction/operation and recreation, in terms of the Antidegradation Policy.

- 4** 4. Page 3-106 of the DEIS states that the Forest's resources in conjunction with several other factors "allow an infinite number of hydroelectric developments to exist." Hydropower development may conflict with other Forest resources. Hydropower projects alone or in combination with other hydropower projects may have a detrimental effect on riparian areas and riparian dependent uses such as cold water fisheries. As the DEIS (p. 3-54) states, "Riparian areas protect water quality by filtering sediment and providing vegetation for streambank stability..." and "...are among the most important wildlife habitats on the Forest." Hydropower projects may also cause changes in temperature, dissolved oxygen, and instream flows, changing existing beneficial uses. The FEIS should discuss the regulatory process for justifying changes in beneficial uses. In addition, the FEIS should describe the process that the Forest Service will use to insure that Federal Energy Regulatory Commission recommended mitigation for projects will be adequate to protect water quality and beneficial uses.
- 5** 5. The Forest Plan (p. 4-36) states that "For an Environmental Assessment, cumulative effects for more than one project are to be addressed in the drainage in which they occur, starting from the last point on the stream where any impacts may cease or are not evident and include all the area above it in the major drainage." Although EPA commends the objective of this Standard and Guideline (S&G), it may not be sufficient to assess the cumulative impacts to water quality and beneficial uses resulting from hydropower development. For example, the loss of spawning habitat may occur below hydropower projects because diversion structures impede the transport of spawning gravels. Another problem with this S&G is that it may fail to assess impacts which do not seem evident on a given reach but which are significant when added to the incremental impacts occurring over the entire watershed. EPA recommends that hydropower Environmental Assessments (EAs) consider the potential impacts both above and below project sites. We believe that the scope of cumulative effects EAs should be watershed or basin-wide.
- 6** 6. Page 3-107 of the DEIS states that mitigation for hydropower projects may consist of "replacement of a different resource to affect several types of resource losses. Some resource losses can never be fully mitigated..." This may result in exchanges of cold water fishery habitat for lake fishery habitat, constituting changes in existing beneficial uses and the possible lowering of standards for turbidity, temperature and dissolved oxygen in otherwise high quality waters. In such cases the Antidegradation Policy applies and requires an antidegradation analysis to support the lowering of standards and the changing of beneficial uses.

7. EPA commends the S&G which will "seek flows and habitat more favorable to fish and wildlife" during the relicensing of hydropower projects where obvious degradation has occurred (Forest Plan p. 4-23). The estimated 215,300 visitor days spent on cold water fishing in 1983 (Forest Plan p. 3-7) indicate the importance of creating additional fishing opportunities within the Forest.
8. EPA commends the S&G which will "give primary management consideration in riparian zones to fish, wildlife, and water quality" (Forest Plan p. 4-25). We recommend the use of cold water fish and benthos as the primary indicators of riparian and watershed health. Pages 5-4 and 5-5 of the Forest Plan show a monitoring plan for population trends of resident rainbow trout which will use a 20% reduction in base population to indicate that further management action is required. The FEIS should describe whether the reduction will be based on a forest-wide, watershed or stream reach basis and whether the 20% reduction "standard" is acceptable to the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). Will monitoring be coordinated with CDFG?
9. BMP assessment will include visual observations and random sampling analyses to determine changes in water quality (Forest Plan p. 5-9). The FEIS should indicate the percentage of projects which will be monitored in this way.
10. Page 4-3 of the DEIS indicates that under the Preferred Alternative there will be a moderate increase in the need for additional community services. The FEIS should define what is meant by moderate and discuss planned additions to existing sewer and water facilities.
11. Although the Forest Plan (p. 4-29) indicates that secondary utilization of timbering byproducts will be the preferred method of disposal, it may not preclude the necessity for on-site disposal. The FEIS should discuss provisions which will prevent slash, fuels and other timbering byproducts from entering waterways if on-site disposal is required.
12. The Sierra National Forest predicates its timber yield and yield production costs on the selection of the Preferred Alternative of the 1983 Vegetation Management for Reforestation DEIS (DEIS p. 2-30). The types of herbicides proposed for use in the Eldorado National Forest and the number of acres on which those herbicides will be used annually should be discussed in the FEIS. In addition, the FEIS should discuss the process for developing environmental documents such as cumulative impact analyses of herbicide projects and site-specific environmental assessments. This discussion should include the processes for public notification, comment and appeal. Finally, the FEIS needs to discuss S&Gs for the protection of municipal water supply watersheds.

- 13** 13. Page 3-56 of the DEIS indicates that 5% of the available primary range is in poor quality. The FEIS should indicate the amount of secondary range in poor condition or in a downward trend. The locations targeted for range improvement activities and the target dates for completion of those activities should also be included in the FEIS.
- 14** 14. The DEIS indicates that the use of vegetation type conversions for grazing will increase under the Preferred Alternative. The FEIS should discuss how the shift to transitional range may increase conflicts with wildlife and increase impacts on upland and ephemeral stream channels.

Air Quality Comments:

- 15** EPA commends the explanation of air quality problems in the Forest as well as the description of expected increases in sources of pollution. However, the DEIS fails to address expected air quality deterioration for the alternatives considered. The FEIS should discuss mitigation, including detailed measures to minimize air quality degradation from burning activities, road dust and vehicle emissions. The FEIS should specifically address protection of air quality in Class I Wilderness areas.

