



THE JOHN MUIR PROJECT
OF EARTH ISLAND INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 897, Big Bear City, CA 92314
Telephone: 530-273-9290 Facsimile: 909-906-1187

August 24, 2018

Jody Noiron, Supervisor
San Bernardino National Forest

Dear Supervisor Noiron,

On behalf of the John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute, we are submitting this objection to the proposed "Grass Valley Fire Restoration Project" (Grass Valley Project, or project), for the reasons stated in our comments on the draft Environmental Assessment (we fully incorporate our EA comments by reference into this objection, and as part of this objection). We note that no meaningful changes were made to either the proposal or analysis with regard to the issues we raised, the Forest Service failed to send us key requested documents upon which the agency relied for the EA, and the Forest Service failed to respond to public comments (there is no response-to-comments document on the project website, and our repeated requests for this document, which is standard in all NEPA analyses, was ignored).

As a remedy, we request that you withdraw this proposed project, except for the following components: proposed actions within 100 feet of private property boundaries; manual removal of invasive weeds; and closing of unauthorized roads. We further request that you use your Good Neighbor Authority, and other authorities, to direct funds for this project to help willing homeowners adjacent to the project area conduct defensible space work annually in order to effectively protect homes from wildland fire.

We would like to engage in a good faith objection resolution process with you, including an in-person meeting in the field, and look forward to hearing from you about that.

Sincerely,

Chad Hanson, Ph.D.,
Director and Staff Ecologist
John Muir Project
P.O. Box 897
Big Bear City, CA 92314
530-273-9290
cthanson1@gmail.com