United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Plumas National Forest
Beckwourth Ranger District
P. O. Box 7, 23 Mohawk Road
Blairsden, CA 96103
(530) 836-2575 Voice
(530) 534-7984 (TDD)

**File Code:** 2900
**Date:** March 11, 2014

Interested Party

Dear Interested Party:

The USDA Forest Service, Plumas National Forest, Beckwourth Ranger District is preparing an Environmental Assessment to treat the noxious weed known as rush skeleton weed (*Chondrilla juncea*) on the Beckwourth Ranger District near Plumas Eureka State Park. The Rush Skeleton Weed project would involve treating a known infestation of rush skeleton weed on approximately 1.5 acres and identifying and treating new or expanded infestations on a maximum of 42 acres. The following treatments are being proposed:

- Manual treatment – Techniques would include digging, hand pulling, or tarping.
- Chemical treatment – Herbicide Application methods would include select, directed spray, or wicking. No aerial application of herbicides is proposed in this project.

A detailed description of the purpose and need and proposed action and two maps showing the project location are enclosed. Information regarding this project is also available online on the Plumas National Forest webpage (www.fs.usda.gov/plumas). Select the "Land and Resources Management" tab, then select "Browse through the Forest Projects," and then find the project name.

The project area is located 3 miles northwest of the Beckwourth Ranger Station on the Beckwourth Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest, Plumas County; the legal location is Township 22 N, Range 11 E, Section 1, Mount Diablo Meridian.

Our desire is to receive comments or other expressions of interest on the merits of the proposed action, as well as comments that address errors, misinformation, or information that has been omitted. Public questions and comments regarding this proposal are an integral part of this environmental analysis process. Comments will be used to identify issues and develop alternatives to the proposed action. To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments should be as specific as possible.

Comments on the scope of the proposed action will be accepted for 14 calendar days from the publication of this notice in the *Portola Reporter* and *Feather River Bulletin.* Publication is scheduled to occur on Wednesday, March 12, 2014. This project is subject to comment pursuant

to 36 CFR 218. Only those who submit timely project-specific written comments during a public comment period are eligible to file an objection. There will be another opportunity to comment when the Environmental Analysis is complete. Individuals or representatives of an entity submitting comments must sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

Provide comments by mail, fax, email, or in-person to Deb Bumpus, Responsible Official, District Ranger, at Beckwourth Ranger District, P.O. Box 7, Blairsden, CA 96103; fax number: (530)836-0493; e-mail address: comments-pacificsouthwest-plumas-beckwourth@fs.fed.us. Please indicate the name "Rush Skeleton Weed Project" on the subject line of your email. Acceptable formats for electronic submissions include: plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc or .docx) or portable document file (.pdf). Submit hand-delivered comments during business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Information is available at the Beckwourth Ranger District and online, as described above. If you need further information please contact: Michael Friend, project leader, by phone: (530)836-2575, or e-mail: mjfriend@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

Deb Bumpus

DEB BUMPUS
District Ranger