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USDA Forest Service  
Jack Blackwell, Regional Forester  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, Calif. 94592

Dear Mr. Blackwell;

Enclosed is a resolution developed by the State Societies of American Foresters in response to our concerns regarding review of the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan. Please acknowledge this resolution and provide an appropriate response. We sincerely appreciate your attention to this matter.

Bill Branham, Chair  
Northern California Society of American Foresters

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Northern and Southern California Societies of American Foresters  
Joint Resolution on the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan

10/18/02

Whereas: Sustainability of forests is a cornerstone of the forestry profession

Whereas: The Society of American Foresters was founded in 1900 and was an instrumental factor in the creation of our system of national forests

Whereas: The nine national forests in California's Sierra Nevada mountain range are included in the management document titled the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan

Whereas: The Sierra Nevada Forest Plan was created by a large number of resource specialists (i.e., approximately 102 people are listed as members of the interdisciplinary, collaboration, science, and monitoring teams as shown in the Draft EIS) yet only a disappointing few licensed professional foresters were included on these teams. And, there were no scientists shown representing the silviculture/forest management area on the science team

Whereas: Due to the long-term accumulation of flammable vegetation, the risk of unnaturally hot, catastrophic fires continues to increase in the Sierra Nevada and elsewhere in the western United States

Whereas: Prescribed fire is a valuable vegetation management tool, yet its use as envisioned in the Plan is not realistic due to air pollution, public safety, and other factors

Whereas: Sustainable forestry does not preclude the responsible management of forests to accommodate a variety of human needs

and values including usable forest products and the benefits that accrue to local economies

Whereas: Foresters are very concerned about the Plan's planned reduction of annual timber harvest from approximately one billion board feet only a decade ago to something less than 100 million board feet of usable timber as envisioned under the plan by 2010

Whereas: California consumes in excess of 7 billion board feet of softwood forest products per year

Whereas: California now imports over 70% of its lumber from other states and foreign countries

Whereas: Without a sustainable forest products industry, opportunities to modify and thin high risk, densely stocked forests are substantially threatened

Whereas: Foresters utilizing a full range of silvicultural techniques including thinning and prescribed fire can achieve a broad array of positive ecosystem management outcomes

BE IT RESOLVED: That for all of the above reasons and many more, representatives of the Society of American Foresters and California Registered Professional Foresters should be immediately requested to provide assistance to the Regional Forester during his ongoing review of the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan.

\s\ Tamara Hanna, Chair  
Southern California Society of American Foresters

\s\ Bill Branham, Chair  
Northern California Society of American Foresters