



Sustainable Forest Action Coalition

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**Participating
Representation from
the following:**

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SFAC Focus Group

RE: SFAC and CSU Chico CED Community Surveys

We continue to move forward with the Social/Economic study at the community level that is an off shoot of the SFAC S/E round table at CSU Chico almost 3 years ago. We were able to get the Regional Office to sign a MOU with CSU Chico CED to develop and produce Forest by Forest studies that were to be done at the community level and not just County. We have finished the first round that included the Stanislaus, El Dorado, Tahoe and Plumas. We also did initial reports for the Lassen and Mendocino and just finished discussion and selection of communities for the Modoc, Shasta-T, Klamath and Six Rivers. For the first four Forest surveys and studies, I was able to leverage the remaining funding from SFAC counties and supporters that was left over from the CSU Chico round table that SFAC sponsored and put together.

I am again asking for support for you to continue these community level survey for the Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta-T, Klamath and Six Rivers. As you may remember, I am doing this work for SFAC at no cost. I am only asking for your continued support to assist in gaining more valuable SE information for the Forest Planning as well as individual project level NEPA. Currently, the Forest Service is providing the majority of the funding through the MOU. However, the individual community level survey's are also supported by SFAC at a lower funding level. To met our funding obligation for CSU Chico CED to accomplish the next six forests community surveys, SFAC needs approximately \$5,000 for CSU Chico survey administration, which the FS can not cover in the MOU. As you can see by the email addresses above, this request for funding support is going to the Supervisors from the Counties where surveys are and have been conducted, as well as other supporters whose organizations can benefit from this effort. The funds would again go into the El Dorado County Chamber account so that it can be kept separate and accountable. If there are funds left over from this request, we will tag them for any possible future requests from this effort. To assist in a better response than the first go around, we will write an article for local papers that explains the effort and better alerts businesses that it is coming.

CALIFORNIA

- Amador • Butte
- Calaveras
- Del Norte
- El Dorado
- Glenn • Humboldt
- Inyo
- Lassen
- Madera • Modoc
- Nevada
- Placer
- Plumas
- Sacramento
- Shasta • Siskiyou
- Sierra
- Tehama
- Trinity
- Tuolumne
- Yuba

OREGON

- Coos • Curry
- Douglas • Jackson
- Klamath
- Josephine • Lake

NEVADA

- Nye

WASHINGTON

- Skamania

Below is the original letter to the Regional Office that outlined the work and methods that became a part of the work agreement:

On April 20, 2015, the SFAC met with Mark Metcalfe, Regional Economist and Dave Armstrong and Dan Ripke from CSU Chico Center for Economic Development (CED). The objective for this meeting was;

- (1) A document that the Region developed providing economic measures that Region 5 can use to describe and understand economic conditions and effects from projects. The document was developed using input from the February 26th roundtable.
- (2) An economic data profile of the Inyo National Forest – this is an example of the economic data that will be made available to each forest. It will be tiered to the economic NEPA templates that the region is developing and will be updated annually so that forests have all the necessary data when conducting this work.
- (3) Following up on the SFAC letter to Barnie Gyant dated March 5, 2015. This letter requests that the Forest Service consider opportunities to partner with CSU Chico CED to further develop data and source information for this effort. We need to better define the potential role that CED can play in this process. Specifically, begin to identify the additional necessary data that CED can provide and make sure we can accurately describe the value added from this data. Also, discuss, if we proceed, what are the next steps for writing these points into an initial proposal for partnership that can be reviewed by FS management in the region.

It was our understanding from this meeting that SFAC and CSU Chico CED would develop a letter that would provide the value added benefits for the FS including and analyzing the additional social elements that were discussed by the sub-committee in our original planning work. This letter would be the foundation of work to determine if planning dollars could be provided from the current budget to enter into the partnership. If the value added benefits are accepted, then both FS and the remaining SFAC money collected as part of this effort will be grouped to support the CED effort to provide social data.

Both the SFAC and CSU Chico CED propose the following for consideration:

Proposed Scope of Work

1. Purpose

The Center for Economic Development (CED) at California State University, Chico proposes to prepare supplemental data and information for the U.S. Forest Service's (Region 5) effort to better understand the economic effects of NEPA projects in forest-dependent communities in Northern California. The data and information provided will be a value-add to the economic evaluation tools the Forest Service have already created.

2. Study Objectives

The proposed project aims to gain a better understanding of the impacts of forest activities on

vulnerable communities that mostly depend on forest-based commodity extraction and tourism for their economic wellbeing. To accomplish this task, forest gateway communities will be identified, socioeconomic data collected and risk assessment will be conducted.

For the purpose of this study, forest-dependent communities are those immediately adjacent to forestland or those with a high economic dependence on forest-based industries, including tourism and timber.

The level of geography for the data reporting will consist mostly of zip code and census tract data. County data will be used only when sub-county data is not available. Many of the counties that inhabit state and national forests are heterogeneous with only a portion of the county residing in the forest regions. Because of this, economic and social data is skewed towards the dominant economic population centers outside the forests, which are often a considerable distance from the smaller forest-dependent communities.

There are three projects or parts to this study that can be completed concurrently or in stages.

- 1) Create a forest-dependent communities socioeconomic report using local data. Information will be disseminated by graphs, tables and maps.
- 2) Conduct a survey of economic diversity in forest-dependent communities. The CED will collect specific community-level data on the number of local businesses, employees, and average salaries in forest related sectors for all forest-dependent communities. The goal of this section is to evaluate the capacity of local communities to respond to forest opportunities in recreation, forest products, mining, and grazing.
- 3) Create a interactive on-line socioeconomic index that forest communities can access and use to evaluate areas of stress, measure opportunities, and track economic trends.

3. Study Methodology

The research and analysis that the CED will perform is outlined below. Cost estimates are preliminary. When the actual scope of work is confirmed for the project, refined cost estimates will be prepared.

Section 1: Socioeconomic Report (\$15,000)

CED will create tables, graphs, and maps of the following:

Identify all gateway communities in selected forest regions.

Create of measure of timber/forest dependence.

 Create an Employment Diversity Index for zip codes and counties.

 Report the cost of living index for communities. Forest projects in communities with a low cost of living will have a larger impact than in those with higher costs of living.

Percent of employment in construction and construction related industries.

Gini ratio of inequality.

Educational attainment.

Crime.

Ratio of doctors to population.
Percent of forest related occupations.
Affordable housing.
Forest visitors.
Poverty.
Unemployment.
Median household income.
Tourism.
Timber harvest value/volume.
School enrollment.
Age demographics.
Migration by age.
Local government spending.
Race and Ethnicity breakdowns.
Births and deaths of businesses.
Ratio of banking institutions to population.
Retail sales.
Birth data.
Death data.

Section 2: Survey of forest related businesses by community – Assest Inventory (\$20,000)

CED proposes to:

1. Create a survey for forest-dependent communities that aims to identify the number of businesses, employees, and average salaries in forest related sectors.
2. Partner with local governments, businesses and organizations to implement the survey.
3. Tabulate results and create a report that estimates the capacity of a community to respond to forest opportunities in recreation, products, mining, and grazing.

Section 3: Interactive Web-Based Socioeconomic Index Map (\$25,000)

1. Create an socioeconomic index based on three main sections:

- a. Economics:
 - i. Unemployment rate
 - ii. Median income
 - iii. Poverty
 - iv. Gini Ratio
 - v. Affordable housing
 - vi. Banking institutions
- b. Education:
 - i. Pre-school enrollment
 - ii. On time high school graduation
 - iii. High school dropout rates

- iv. Percent of population with a Bachelor's degree or higher
- c. Social:
 - i. Safety (Violent crime, theft)
 - ii. Access to health (Ratio of doctors to population)
 - iii. Community opportunities (Ratio of social organizations to the population)
 - iv. Access to healthy food

- 2. Data will be collected at the zip code and county level of geography.
- 3. The interactive web-based map will have the ability to toggle the main sections individually.
- 4. The interactive web-based map can be hosted on the CED web page.

4. Time-frame

Each section will have varying time-frames and can change with the adding or dropping of indicators included in the project. The estimated project length is as follows:

Socioeconomic Report: 3 months

Assesst Inventory Survey of Forest Service Sectors: 4 months

Interactive Web-based Socioeconomic Index Map: 6 months

5. Staffing

The proposed projects will be under the direction of David Armstrong, project manager CED, who will utilize student researchers to conduct secondary research and surveys. The Center will consult with Resident Economist Dr. David Gallo to review all final deliverables for methodological accuracy.

If there are additional questions as to any value added benefits for this partnership, please contact me for clarification. Thank you and your staff for working with the SFAC. We look forward to our continued work on this effort.

Sincerely,



Bill Wickman and Laurel Brent-Bumb
Representatives for SFAC

cc:
SFAC members
CSU Chico CED