

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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June 17, 2015

Laurence Crabtree, Forest Supervisor
Eldorado National Forest
100 Forni Road
Placerville, CA 95667

RE: EL DORADO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SUPPORTS ALTERNATIVE FOUR

Dear Forest Supervisor Crabtree,

On behalf of El Dorado County, I am pleased to report that our board has decided to support alternative four in the Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the King Fire, which would increase treatments in strategic locations to establish and maintain a reduced fuel load for future suppression, change fire behavior, and improve management of natural and prescribed fires.

First, alternative four reduces forest fuel loads by creating Wildland Urban Interface Defense Zones, Strategic Fire Management Zones, Conifer Forest Resiliency Areas, and Strategic Roadside Buffer Zones. These strategies will make the forest a safer place for many different stakeholders: workers that tend to the forest for routine maintenance and during emergencies, residents that live near it, recreational enthusiasts, and the animals that call it home. Without deploying these strategies at the levels in which alternative four recommends the likelihood that these stakeholders will be put back in a life threatening situation due to a super fire will increase significantly.

Second, increased revenue from timber sales in alternative four, from the fire area, will produce approximately 222 million board feet of timber that could be harvested. This marketable timber could help in the recovery of the burned area. The revenue from the timber will help to provide new trees that will restore the forest to its natural beauty that all Californians and its native wildlife need to prosper.

Finally, we understand direct and indirect affects that some might be worried about in alternative four. However, over the last twenty years we have watched our forests become over grown. This overgrowth has created a huge life threatening liability for El Dorado County residents, tourists, and the animals that live in the forest. If we do not do something now, the tragedy of the King Fire will only replay itself out again.

I would like to thank the Eldorado National Forest staff for all its diligent work over the last year. As a board we look forward to helping the Eldorado National Forest staff achieve all the goals that come along with implementing alternative four. Our national forest is still in a critical state of danger, and alternative four will go a long way toward better stewardship of our land.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Veerkamp
Chairman, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

cc:
Members, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors