

December 5, 2023

Eldorado National Forest, Pacific Ranger District
Attn: Dionne Uzes, District Ranger
7887 Highway 50
Pollock Pines, CA 95726-9602

RE: Letter of Support for the Caldor Cabin Owners Recovery Project in El Dorado County

Dear Dionne Uzes, District Ranger,

The Caldor Fire burned 221,835 acres in 2021, mostly on the Eldorado National Forest. The unprecedented megafire traversed the entire Sierra Nevada and destroyed over 1,000 structures, including 177 Recreation Residences (summer cabins) within El Dorado County.

The Caldor Cabin Owners Recovery Project (“CCORP”) is an all-volunteer grassroots organization which formed immediately following the disaster, representing the interests of the Recreation Residence fire victims, their families, and supporters. CCORP is affiliated with the Northern Sierra Summer Homeowners Association (“NSSHA”) and the National Forest Homeowners (“NFH”).

Recreation Residence owners have prided themselves on being good stewards of the National Forest environment and maintain deep, often multi-generational roots in the community. CCORP and its affiliates envision a post-Caldor future in which currently devastated Recreation Residence Tracts are fully reforested and repopulated including diverse new cabin owners committed to high standards of environmental stewardship in partnership with El Dorado County and other agencies.

CCORP estimates that unless changes are made to Forest Service practices disallowing potential new permittees an opportunity to build and occupy a new Recreation Residence on previously occupied cabin sites where Caldor victims have chosen not to rebuild, such inaction would have the effect of permanently eliminating a minimum of 100 such cabins from El Dorado County. Failure to fully repopulate devastated Recreation Residence Tracts would have an adverse impact on the local and regional economy, local tax revenues and government services, rural community stability and individual Tract infrastructure, security, and viability.

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors supports the following:

We strongly support CCORP, NSSHA and NFH in their efforts to sustain and replenish the existence of Recreation Residence Tracts on National Forest System lands locally, regionally, and nationally, thereby fulfilling national Forest Service policy (FSM 2347.1), which states “...To

the maximum extent practicable, the recreation residence program must be managed to preserve the opportunity it provides for individual and family-oriented recreation.."

We request that Eldorado National Forest allow for the perpetuation and viability of existing Recreation Residence Tracts on federal public lands, including provisions such as a lottery allowing for diverse new cabin permittees to become established on previously occupied lots that have fallen into disuse due to fire and other circumstances.

Sincerely,

Wendy Thomas
Chair, Board of Supervisors