



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Eldorado National Forest

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File Code: 5420/5460

Date: September 26, 2011

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HEALTHY FORESTS
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY

Ray Nutting
Chair
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

**COPY SENT TO BOARD MEMBERS
FOR THEIR INFORMATION**

DATE 9-29-11

cc: Exhapp - Co Council

Dear Mr. Nutting:

Thank you for your letter of September 13, 2011, regarding the pending purchase of the Francis Cow Camp property. Although we did respond on September 12th to your draft letter, we have collected some additional information that is included in this response.

The County is requesting an easement for what the County is describing as its "historic prescriptive use" for a road across Francis Cow Camp. The request describes that an easement for the existing Wentworth Springs Road in a width of 25 feet on each side of the existing centerline be granted to the County of El Dorado before the United States takes title to the property.

We have researched whether the United States has any interests, such as an existing easement, that it could transfer prior to the acquisition of the land within the parcel to be purchased. It currently does not appear so. We could only grant an easement after acquiring the parcel, and following our usual procedures in authorizing an easement to the County. The United States cannot convey an interest that it does not have for the Francis Cow Camp parcel.

I am including a copy of Exhibit 1 of the 2011/2012 Wentworth Springs Road #63 Operations and Maintenance Plan, jointly developed by El Dorado County and the Forest. The Exhibit shows that the Francis Cow Camp parcel is bordered by National Forest land. Wentworth Springs Road crosses National Forest land to reach Francis Cow Camp from both the north and south. If the County is interested in obtaining an easement for the entire road, including the ¼ mile that crosses Francis Cow Camp, we are willing to work towards that goal after we obtain the property. We would need to reach an agreement on the cost of issuing an easement, in accordance with the 1992 Forest Road Agreement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and El Dorado County.

Please let me know if this is an action you are interested in pursuing.

Sincerely,

KATHRYN D. HARDY
Forest Supervisor



