



**Sustainable Forest Action Coalition**

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Organization Representatives

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The Honorable Senator Diane Feinstein  
The Honorable Senator Barbara Boxer  
The Honorable Senator Dean Heller  
The Honorable Congressman Doug LaMalfa  
The Honorable Congressman Tom McClintock  
The Honorable Congressman Ami Bara  
The Honorable Congressman Jeff Denham  
The Honorable Congressman Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Congressman Devin Nunes  
The Honorable Congressman Jared Huffman  
The Honorable Congressman Mark Amodei  
The Secretary of Agriculture  
The Chief of the Forest Service

Dear Honorable Senators, Congressman, Secretary and Chief:

The Sustainable Forest Action Coalition (SFAC) has only been in existence for three years, but during that time period we have seen tremendous interest and growth in who we are and who we represent. Currently we have representation from 20 counties in California and growing support from representation in Southern Oregon and Western Nevada. These representatives come from a large cross section of elected officials, Chambers of Commerce, Farm Bureaus, Fire Safe Councils, Timber Industry, Water Agencies, Education and individuals who have voiced an interest in our efforts.

The SFAC is disheartened to read about the latest decisions that will only hasten the demise of our rural counties in Northern California as well as other Western States. It is our understanding that as a result of Sequestration, funding for Land Acquisition is maintained while there will be decreases in the budget line items that support increasing the pace and scale of ecological restoration, as well as maintaining our remaining infrastructure and jobs within our Counties. SFAC must ask, "Why did you continue to authorize the loss of more acres in our counties that will only take more land off of our small tax rolls while also assuring that less work will be done on our public lands?"

**Participating Counties:**

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

During these challenging social and economic times SFAC has worked hard to provide input on proposed legislation as well as existing legislation, which has profound impacts on our counties, their communities, business, education, health and citizens. The main objective of SFAC is to work at the State and Federal level to provide information and comment on natural resource issues that impact our social and economic wellbeing. Many of our 20 counties continue to have high unemployment rates and the only way we feel we can address this is through a recognition of the many regulatory barriers that impact wise use of our natural resources and the creation of jobs that go along with that use. SFAC feels the only way this wise use and job creation can occur is to address regulatory reform to restore our forests and watersheds and other natural resources to a healthy condition to provide an opportunity for rural community economic stability. By meeting this objective, the coalition also recognizes the additional benefit that thinning to improve forest health provides to our watersheds and furthering our efforts in protecting our natural resources from large wildfires. SFAC works separately from the Board of Supervisor's but in a parallel fashion to try and add additional input and support to natural resource issues that impact our county's economic and social wellbeing.

The SFAC strongly opposes unnecessary reductions in timber sales from the National Forest System. Congress and the President must find ways of funding the needed management of the National Forest System, particularly the management of National Forest timber that supports good, family wage jobs while also supporting our remaining infrastructure and related jobs. We can not continue to impact these vital jobs while also seeing the authorization of more land being taken off of our tax rolls.

It is even more disheartening to read that it is the Chief's intent to request a percentage of the already approved and released SRS funds be refunded. In January, Secretary Vilsack declared a warning to rural America that we are becoming less relevant in the country's increasingly urban landscape and unless we find a way to reverse the trend, our voice will continue to fall on deaf ears. A quote from the Secretary was, "Unless we respond and react, the capacity of rural America and its power and its reach will continue to decline." As our Representatives, it is critical that you listen and understand our issues. We live in, understand, and support active watershed and forest management to assure that our ecosystems do not continue to burn up, but continue to produce the products and water that our State and Nation need.

The SFAC and all of our Counties implore all of you to consider these impacts and losses as you move forward. We feel that to increase the Pace and Scale of ecological restoration that the Secretary and Chief continue to state, many of your existing laws need serious review and updating. We can not continue to allow single species to be given more priority than our social and economic well being, not only at the county level, but as a nation as a whole. In addition, it is over due to rethink the National Environmental Policy Act and realize that Pace and Scale can only increase by recognizing that most forest and watershed health projects are necessary and not causing undue harm to our environment. On the contrary, they are showing that thinning is critical to reducing the threat of insect and fire losses that destroy all species habitat while impacting our watersheds. It is the SFAC hope and desire that we can continue to work with all of you to bring awareness as well as recommendations on the changes discussed above.

Sincerely,



Bill Wickman and Laurel Brent Bumb  
Co-Spokespersons for SFAC

cc: Randy Moore, Regional Forester  
Barnie Gyant, Deputy Regional Forester