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August 7, 2007

Mr. Bernie Weingardt
Pacific Southwest Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

Mr. McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney
501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Storrie Fire and *United States v. Union Pacific Railroad Company*

Dear Mr. Weingardt and Mr. Scott:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Plumas regarding your litigation with the Union Pacific Railroad over the destruction caused by the Storrie Fire in August of 2000. Plumas County supports and appreciates your efforts to obtain compensation for the loss of timber, habitat, and other resources and to secure funds for restoration work.

Plumas County has an interest in the Forest Service recovering monies to help restore the Plumas National Forest and recovering the value of timber that, when otherwise removed, would have generated forest receipts. As you pursue a judgment against the railroad or engage in any settlement negotiations, we request that you consider how the structuring of any recovery may directly affect our County.

Plumas County and the Quincy Library Group have been working with the Forest Service for fifteen years to pursue the interrelated objectives of reducing extreme fire danger, protecting forest habitat and species, maintaining our timber industry, and restoring forest receipts to support our local schools and roads. As you know, our efforts to implement the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Act have been hampered by relentless appeals and litigation, and forest receipts continue to be dismal.

As we continue to struggle to fund local government and schools, it is particularly important to us that any forest receipts related to the Storrie Fire be appropriately allocated. Forest receipts include stumpage value under the Act of May 23, 1908, as well as harvest-related reforestation or restoration payments under the Knutson-Vandenberg Act, and any monies obtained in a settlement or judgment based on such value or purposes should be similarly classified as forest receipts.

Also, to the extent other monies are recovered for habitat loss, wildlife loss, or the loss of scenic, environmental, archeological, or other values, those monies should be reinvested in the Plumas National Forest as direct mitigation for the fire damage.

Mr. Weingardt and Mr. Scott

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Plumas County representatives are happy to meet with either of you or your staff to review these matters further or to provide any assistance we may be able to offer as this litigation proceeds.

Sincerely,



Ole Olsen

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc Hon. Dianne Feinstein, United States Senate
Hon. Wally Herger, U.S. House of Representatives
Alice Carlton, Forest Supervisor, Plumas National Forest
Kendall J. Newman, Assistant U.S. Attorney