



Stanislaus National Forest
Attn: Rim Recovery
19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370

June 12, 2014

RE: Rim Fire recovery (43033) DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on reestablishing a healthy, diverse forest ecosystem that we can pass on to future generations.

This project is to salvage dead trees to capture economic value, remove roadside hazard trees to protect public and worker safety, reduce fuels for forest resiliency, improve roads for hydrologic function, and enhance wildlife habitat.

The Central Sierra Audubon Society supports Alternative 4 with the following requested modifications as it meets most of the concerns raised in our scoping response dated Jan 2, 2014.

- **Retain additional large snags** – Snags provide benefits for many bird and other wildlife species which need it now and some long-term downed woody structure is necessary for forest recovery. We agree that retaining large snags and downed logs is important now since future recruitment of these features is not expected to occur until decades to centuries in the future. Therefore we request retention of additional large snags on every acre.
- **Reduce the number of miles planned for new temporary road construction**– Road minimization within the Stanislaus forest is valuable to birds and other wildlife. It appears that there will be more salvage wood than the local logging community can handle even if limited to areas where new controversial temporary road construction is not proposed.
- **Eliminate salvage logging out of the core roadless area in the Clavey River canyon.** This area is important for birds and other wildlife and is currently roadless for a reason. Road minimization within the Stanislaus forest is valuable to birds and other wildlife

We urge the Forest Supervisor to approve a modified Alternative 4 to include the additional mitigating measures noted above. Alternative 4 and the above suggested modifications will meet the purpose and need of the project by still capturing the economic value of dead trees and removing biomass while balancing the needs of birds and other wildlife, will position the forest for recovery consistent with the Forest Plan and mitigates the potential adverse effects of other alternatives to birds and other wildlife.

If you have any questions concerning our comments please submit them to the attention of our contact, Walt Kruse. He is our representative on the Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions Collaborative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Harden". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David Harden, President, Central Sierra Audubon Society