



May 19, 2022

RE: Claremont Forest Resiliency

Attn: Joe Hoffman
Plumas National Forest
Mt. Hough Ranger District
39696 Hwy 70
Quincy, CA 95971

Friends of Plumas Wilderness supports Plumas National Forest efforts to reduce the risk of high severity wildfires, improve and restore forest health and resilience, control non-native species, and improve watershed conditions.

We have concerns about proposed actions to:

- 1) Grapple Pile / Hand Thin within the Scenic Zone of the Wild & Scenic Middle Fork Feather River. Page 4-70 of the 1988 Plumas National Forest Land & Resource Management Plan states within the Scenic Zone: "Harvest timber only to maintain or enhance use, safety and scenic quality, protect special habitat, or prevent insect or disease epidemic." Proposed actions must meet these Standards and Guidelines.
- 2) Mechanical Thin in the Middle Fork Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA). The Claremont Forest Resiliency Project map does not show the Middle Fork Inventoried Roadless Area boundary. It is not clear if mechanical thinning is proposed within the IRA. The 2001 Roadless Area Rule "establishes prohibitions on road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting in inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System Lands. The intent of this final rule is to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System in the context of multiple-use management.

To address these concerns we recommend:

- 1) The Plumas National Forest ensures that the proposed grapple piling / hand thinning within the Scenic Zone of the Middle Fork Feather River meets the intent of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, Forest Service direction, and Plumas National Forest Land & Resource Management Plan Standards and Guidelines.
- 2) No mechanical thinning occurs within the Middle Fork Inventoried Roadless Area. We do not believe that it is proposed but it is difficult to tell as the IRA is not shown on the Claremont Forest Resiliency Proposed Action Map. Future maps should include the IRA boundary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Claremont Forest Resiliency Project. Friends of Plumas Wilderness supports the general intent of the project but does not want these efforts to compromise natural qualities of the Wild & Scenic Middle Fork Feather River or Middle Fork Inventoried Roadless Area. Clearly showing these areas on all maps would raise public awareness of these unique natural areas and help land managers differentiate between these special management areas and multiple-use lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Darrel Jury".

Darrel Jury, President
Friends of Plumas Wilderness
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