



May 20, 2024

Reviewing Officer: Jennifer Eberlien, Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, California, 94592

**RE: Community Protection Central and West Slope Project #62873**

Friends of Plumas Wilderness (FoPW) provided project-specific written comments on July 19, 2023. Public review of the proposed project has improved the Project yet we have some objections that address proposed treatments in designated land allocations. In particular, we are greatly appreciative of the inclusion of a Forest Plan Amendment to allow for the use of prescribed fire in Bucks Lake Wilderness to improve forest health and protect mature forest and wilderness values.

**Objections & Remedies:**

**1. Do not mechanically treat designated or eligible Scenic River Zones.** The July 19, 2023 FoPW comment letter states: **“FoPW does not support the use of mechanical treatments removing trees up to 30” dbh along designated or eligible Scenic River Zones. We support the use of manual thinning of trees up to 10” dbh, pile burning, and prescribed fire along Scenic River Zones”.**

**Remedy:** The 2,289 acres of eligible and 1,584 acres of designated Scenic River Zones should be treated using only manual treatments with follow-up prescribed burn and pile burning.

**2. Remove Special Interest Areas (SIAs) with only a few acres in the Project Area.** The July 19, 2023 FoPW comment letter states: **“SIAs are managed to protect unique scenic, botanic, or geologic values. The EA states 1,959 acres of designated SIAs and 2,865 acres of proposed SIAs are located in the Project Area. FoPW recommends that SIAs with only a few acres in the Project Area be removed: Fowler Lake, Little Volcano, and McRae Meadow. Valley Creek is entirely within the Project Area but has an existing fuels reduction plan that is currently being implemented.”**

**Remedy:** FoPW recommends that the Plumas National Forest (PNF) remove Fowler Lake, Little Volcano, McRae Meadow and Valley Creek from the Project. In addition, PNF should work closely with the California Native Plant Society to develop fuels reduction treatments specific to each SIA. California Native Plant Society staff possess a deep knowledge of native plants and have training and experience related to the development of fuels reduction treatments.

We look forward to sharing our objections to the Community Protection Central and West Slope Project with Forest Service staff. If there are any questions related to points raised in this letter please contact me.

Sincerely,

Ron Logan  
Board President  
Friends of Plumas Wilderness  
PO Box 1441  
Quincy, CA 95971