



TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093-1613
PHONE (530) 623-1217 FAX (530) 623-8365

August 12, 2014

Chief Tom Tidwell
USDA-USFS
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Chief Tidwell,

Thank you for your support and follow up during the 18 months that the Trinity County Board of Supervisors, and the Trinity County Collaborative Group (TCCG), have worked with the U.S. Forest Service to address forest management issues on public lands in Trinity County. We are pleased to report that over the past few months the members of the Collaborative have made great strides in reaching new levels of consensus and forward movement on a number of issues which had previously been points of contention.

Within that spirit of collaboration and support, we request your assistance to address the steady growth of trespass marijuana grows and associated environmental impacts, a significant and potentially catastrophic situation impacting Trinity County. With increased accumulated impacts affecting both public and private lands and resources, the TCCG concurs with this assessment, as demonstrated in the attached letter that details a list of significant impacts.

It is ironic that, as we anticipate progress from the TCCG in addressing forestry issues, there is potential for work to be delayed due to the real dangers related to trespass grows. Twice within the last few months, USFS staff within Trinity County discovered large grows in close proximity to areas within their program of work and had to halt all activity due to safety issues until the grows were addressed by law enforcement.

It has come to our attention that a Forest Service law enforcement position in northern Trinity County is vacant and that there may soon be a vacancy in a similar position in the south part of the county as well. Given the increased need for USFS law enforcement, as noted above, we would encourage your agency to fill these vacancies as quickly as possible. Even with swift action to ensure the continuity of these two positions, the Trinity County Board of Supervisors is

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DISTRICT 1

JUDY MORRIS
DISTRICT 2

KARL FISHER
DISTRICT 3

DEBRA CHAPMAN
DISTRICT 4

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DISTRICT 5

concerned that the current USFS law enforcement allocations are not commensurate with the massive scale, and increased growth, of the problem that we are facing. We appreciate any efforts to maintain current staff levels at a minimum, and would encourage you to allocate additional resources to our area that match the level of need.

Additionally, the Trinity County Board of Supervisors will be requesting all cooperating State and Federal agencies to increase regulatory and enforcement staff to help address this issue. We believe current staffing levels have not kept pace with the growing impacts we are seeing across the landscapes and watersheds of Trinity County.

The Trinity County Board of Supervisors, thanks you and your staff for your participation in the Trinity County Collaborative Group over the past year. We believe our collective efforts are making a difference and leading the way. Your support and partnership have been essential in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Judith N. Pflueger, Chairman
Trinity County Board of Supervisors

CC: Robert Bonnie
Scott Harris
Randy Moore
Dave Meyers