

RESOLUTION NO. 19-159

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SISKIYOU CONTINUING ITS DECLARATION OF A WILDFIRE
EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, catastrophic wildfire has become a major issue in California, destroying property, homes, natural resources and lives every year, and;

WHEREAS, on March 2nd, 2014, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors declared a state of emergency in Siskiyou County due to the actual and perceived threat of wildfire in California, and;

WHEREAS, the wildfire season is growing longer and progressively more destructive, with the 2018 wildfire season being the most destructive and deadly on record in California with a total of 8,434 fires burning an area of 1,890,438 acres, costing \$1.79 billion in fire suppression, and;

WHEREAS, the Camp Fire in northern California became the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history, killing 86 civilians and destroying 19,000 structures, most of those being homes, and;

WHEREAS, the Klamathon Fire in Siskiyou County burned 38,008 acres, destroying 82 structures, including 34 homes and cost millions in fire suppression; the Delta Fire in Shasta County threatened our southern County communities, including Dunsmuir, and caused major impacts to I-5 traffic and commerce; and in recent years many fires, including the Gap Fire and July Complex Fires, have impacted the environment, economy and lives for those who call Siskiyou County home, and;

WHEREAS, wildfire and the resulting smoke impacts people's health and decreases tourism; in summer 2018 in Siskiyou County, breathing air during the worst smoky days was equivalent to smoking ten cigarettes a day and there were 37 unhealthy and very unhealthy days from July to September, and;

WHEREAS, catastrophic wildfire effects Siskiyou County residents beyond those impacts listed above; public utilities, including Pacific Power, have had to adopt and implement plans to shut-off power during high wind and fire vulnerability events; and,

WHEREAS, Siskiyou County is home to more than 2.5 million acres of federally managed land which is 62% of the total land in the County, and;

WHEREAS, the management of lands, particularly regarding forest protection and fuels reduction on National Forests is wholly inadequate, has long been ignored, and is significantly underfunded, placing Siskiyou County in significant peril and at great risk in the event that catastrophic wildfire occurs and;

WHEREAS, many of the areas burned in Siskiyou County included proposed projects by the United States Forest Service that were blocked by "environmental" appeals and lawsuits, and; and,

WHEREAS, millions of dead and decaying trees remain in national forests throughout the State due to a lack of forest management, and;

WHEREAS, the 2019 wildfire season did not impact Siskiyou County as drastically as previous years, however, the conditions that result in catastrophic wildfire have not improved and catastrophic wildfire is still a top priority and cause for concern for the State of California, Siskiyou County, and citizens throughout the state, and;

WHEREAS, there continues to be a widely recognized extremely high risk of catastrophic wildfire in Siskiyou County due to unnaturally heavy fuel loads and the early drying of vegetation, and;

WHEREAS, the conditions of local National Forest constitute an ongoing public nuisance, and;

WHEREAS, the elected and appointed officials of both the state and the nation have an obligation to preserve public safety and protect the citizenry and their homes and businesses by ensuring that the landscape is as fire-resilient as possible and that firefighting efforts can be effective and as safe as possible for fire fighters; and,

WHEREAS, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors calls for immediate measures to be taken to prevent imminent catastrophic wildfires.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors that there is an ongoing emergency due to the threat of wildfire in California, and we continue to urge the Governor to take an active role at the state and federal level to demand that the United States Forest Service take action in California's federal forested land to do the prevention and maintenance work necessary to mitigate the ongoing and increasing risk of catastrophic wildfire. We also urge the Governor to provide at least \$5 million in funding (allocated from the \$213 million outlined for fuels reduction in the State's budget) to Siskiyou County to address fuels reduction and make our communities more resilient, and ensure implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill and President Trump's *Executive Order on Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Rangelands, and other Federal Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk*

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors on December 10, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Haupt, Kobseff, Valenzuela, Nixon and Criss
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

Signature on file
Brandon A. Criss, Chair
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
LAURA BYNUM,
COUNTY CLERK

By Signature on file
Deputy