March 15, 2022

Todd Drake

United States Forest Service

Klamath National Forest

Happy Camp Ranger Districts

63822 Highway 96

P.O. Box 377

Happy Camp, CA 96039

**Subject: 2022 First Quarter Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA) – Slater-McCash Planting**

Dear Mr. Drake:

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors would like to express our support of the Klamath National Forest’s proposed Slater-McCash Planting project. The County also encourages the Forest Service to perform post-fire treatment, and replanting to the maximum extent possible.

This project is focused on areas burned at high severity by the Slater and McCash wildfires and is intended to prepare sites for and perform reforesting actions. Replanting will be focused on native mixed-conifer species and will include hand-release (grubbing) as needed to promote seedling survival to return the area to a functioning forested landscape. The County supports projects of restoration, salvage, forest management, and efficiency to be fulfilled to their maximum extent possible.

Federal forest lands make up approximately 62% of the County, and healthy forest landscapes provide an economic benefit, habitat to multiple species, a variety of recreational opportunities, contribute to clean air, and so much more. Fuels reduction management activities are vital to our County as well as the surrounding communities who are greatly affected by catastrophic wildfires on an almost yearly basis. The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors entrusts the capable staff of the Klamath National Forest to do just research and take necessary actions within this project area to foster a healthy forest, support our local timber economy, protect our communities from catastrophic wildfire, and ensure these forests are around for future generations.

Please contact Elizabeth Nielsen, Deputy County Administrator at enielsen@co.siskiyou.ca.us or (530) 842-8012, if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further. This letter was approved by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Sincerely,

Brandon A. Criss, Chair

Board of Supervisors