Chief Matthew Reischman

Deputy Director, Resource Management

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

1416 9th Street

P.O. Box 944246

Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Chief Reischman,

We would like to express our support for the CAL FIRE Forest Health Post-Fire Reforestation and Regeneration Grant submitted by FWS Forestry Services and Jesse McNames Forestry.

The goal of this collaboration the **Mountain Fire Reforestation Grant** is to regenerate forested stands that were severely burned in the 2022 McKinney and Mountain wildfires in central Siskiyou County. This project, covering approximately 4,800 acres north of the Klamath River (McKinney Fire) and west of Gazelle, CA (Mountain Fire), will conduct site preparation activities and plant a diverse and location appropriate mix of seedlings to regenerate forest stands severely damaged by the fire.

Regenerating the forest is critical to Siskiyou County’s long term economic interests including forest industry jobs, recreation and tax receipts. This project will rapidly reduce impacts of watershed erosion, improve wildlife habitat and accelerate carbon sequestration compared to allowing for natural stand regeneration.

We strongly encourage CAL FIRE to fully fund this important project.

This letter was approved by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors on February 21, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Thank you,

Ed Valenzuela, Chair

Board of Supervisors