

RESOLUTION NO. 21-118

**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 significant issue in California, destroying property, homes, natural resources, and lives every year, and;

WHEREAS, on September 2nd, 2014, with passage of Resolution No. 14-154, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors ("Board") declared a state of emergency in Siskiyou County due to the actual and perceived threat of wildfire in California; and

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2019, with passage of Resolution No. 19-159, the Board confirmed the ongoing state of emergency in Siskiyou County due to the threat of wildfire in California; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2021 with passage of Resolution No. 21-77, the Board confirmed the ongoing state of emergency in Siskiyou County due to the threat of wildfire in California; and

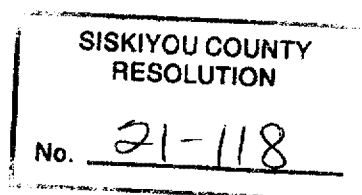
WHEREAS, this Resolution passed today, will repeal and replace Resolution No. 21-77; and

WHEREAS, the wildfire season is growing longer and progressively more destructive, with the 2020 wildfire season being the most destructive and deadly on record in California with a total of 9,639 fires, destroying an area of 4,397,809 acres, 4% of the states 100 million aces, and costing \$12.79 billion in damages and fire suppression, and;

WHEREAS, the July Complex, Red Salmon Complex, and LNU Complex, burned hundreds of thousand of acres each, and the August Complex burned one million acres, detailing the intensity of the fire season and the increasing length of fire season due to sparse rainfall and below-average snowpack, and;

WHEREAS, the Slater/ Devil Fire in Siskiyou County burned a combined 166,127 acres, destroying 440 structures, with a projected cost of \$53,679,525 in Long Term Recovery and additional fire suppression and mitigation; in the previous year, 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 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 the summer of 2020 in Siskiyou County, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of over 400 daily and peaking at over 500, breathing air was equivalent to smoking



ten cigarettes a day leading to health issues for our residents with extremely unhealthy days from July to October, and;

WHEREAS, catastrophic wildfire affects 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 in National Forests is wholly inadequate, has long been ignored, and is significantly underfunded, placing Siskiyou County in significant peril and at great risk should a catastrophic wildfire occur, and;

WHEREAS, many of the areas burned in Siskiyou County were included in proposed projects by the United States Forest Service but were blocked by “environmental” appeals and lawsuits, 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 2021 wildfire projection is predicting the worst fire season on record for Northern California, which is impacted by a Federal and State Declared Drought which will impact Siskiyou County drastically. Unlike previous years, 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 with hotter drier conditions occurring earlier and, due to unnaturally heavy fuel loads and the early drying of vegetation, and;

WHEREAS, the conditions of local National Forests constitute an ongoing public concern, and;

WHEREAS, the County opposes managed fire response wherever the fire start is within the influence of a community at risk and thus, supports immediate fire suppression, 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 be as effective and as safe as possible for firefighters; 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. 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.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors on August 10, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:	Supervisors Criss, Kobseff, Valenzuela, Ogren and Haupt
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None


Ray A. Haupt, Chair
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
LAURA BYNUM,
COUNTY CLERK

By 
Deputy