August 12, 2025

Jennifer M. Norris, PhD
Executive Director
Wildlife Conservation Board
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

**Subject:** Request for Inclusion of Local Protections in Shackleford Forest Conservation Easement (Project ID: 2025048)

Dear Dr. Norris,

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is submitting this letter in connection with the proposed conservation easement over approximately 12,213 acres in the Shackleford Forest area of Siskiyou County (Project ID: 2025048).

To ensure continued alignment with local land use, infrastructure, and public safety needs, the Board strongly urges that the following protections be explicitly maintained in any approved conservation easement:

1. **Protection of Agricultural Water Infrastructure**
The Mill Creek and Shackleford Creek watersheds provide essential irrigation to working agricultural lands in Quartz Valley. Ditch easements and head gates located within the proposed easement area are critical to ongoing agricultural operations and must remain accessible and fully functional.
2. **Preservation of Access via Shackleford Road**
Shackleford Road supports wilderness trailhead access, maintenance of Cliff and Campbell Lakes (storage reservoirs for the Mill and Shackleford ditch systems), access to federal grazing allotments, and private landowner access to remote parcels. It is essential that this access be preserved in full.
3. **Continuation of Existing Road Agreement**
The Forest Service and private landowners rely on a longstanding Co-op Road Agreement with the current landowner in lieu of a deeded easement. This agreement supports residential and operational access and must remain intact and enforceable under the terms of any easement.
4. **Sustaining Timber-Related Revenue**
The land is currently managed for timber production, contributing to County services through the Timber Yield Tax and property taxes. It is important that these economic benefits continue and not be diminished by the easement’s implementation.
5. **Unrestricted Wildfire Suppression and Vegetation Management**
The area’s wildfire risk, particularly to Quartz Valley and Mugginsville, necessitates full access for firefighting equipment and vegetation management. Fire behavior in the Mill and Shackleford drainages is influenced by wind and proximity to the Marble Mountain Wilderness, requiring flexible and responsive suppression strategies.
6. **Ongoing Public Access to Shackleford Falls**
Shackleford Falls is a valued local recreation site used by the community and youth programs such as JH and Kidder camps. Continued public access to this resource must be preserved.

Including these conditions in the final easement will help preserve essential community needs and safeguard ongoing access and operations.

Sincerely,

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Nancy Ogren

District 4

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Ray Haupt

District 5

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Jess W. Harris

District 1

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Ed Valenzuela

District 2

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Michael N. Kobseff

District 3

cc:

Kevin Kiniery, CAL FIRE

Tina Bartlett, CDFW Region 1

Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange