April 9, 2018

Dean Gould
Forest Supervisor
Sierra National Forest

Ann Carlson
Acting Forest Supervisor
Sequoia National Forest

Re: Support for Southern Sierra Draft Roadless Areas Proposal

Dear Forest Supervisors Gould and Carlson:

We support the attached proposal to protect roadless lands in the revised forest plans for the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests. This proposal would protect five priority Recommended Wilderness Areas (RWAs) on each forest and also apply a protective Backcountry Management Area (BMA) designation to over 100 additional areas shown in the attached maps and GIS data. We urge you to include this proposal in the preferred alternative in the 2018 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the revised forest plans Sierra and Sequoia National Forests.

Protecting roadless lands is a critical planning strategy for maintaining ecological and scenic integrity across the most pristine portions of the landscape. This mixture of designations would effectively protect ecosystems currently underrepresented in the National Wilderness Preservation System, as well as human-powered recreation opportunities across both forests. The conservation community is currently incorporating feedback from other forest stakeholders into the RWA boundaries, which will minimize stakeholder conflict and add collaborative support for these designations.
We ask that you take advantage of this once-in-a-generation planning opportunity to ensure that these forests roadless and wilderness values are maintained over the life of the revised plans.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jamie Ervin
Sierra Forest Legacy

Eric Wesselman
Friends of the River

Ryan Henson
California Wilderness Coalition

Stan Van Velsor
The Wilderness Society

Kate Hoit
California Director, Vet Voice Foundation
U.S. Army Reserves 2001-2009
Iraq War Veteran 2004-2005

Nayamin Martinez
Central California Environmental Justice Network

Robert Snow
Fresno Audubon Society

Joan Parker
Tulare County Audubon Society

Trudy Tucker
National Forests Chair
Tehipite Chapter, Sierra Club

Chip Ashley
Tehipite Chapter, Sierra Club

Joe Fontaine
Kern Kaweah Chapter Sierra Club

Alan Carlton
Sierra Nevada Committee, Sierra Club

Mehmet McMillan
WildPlaces

Harry Love
Kern Audubon Society

Darrel Jury
Friends of Plumas Wilderness

Katie Goodwin
Access Fund

David Page
Winter Wildlands Alliance

Pamela Flick
Defenders of Wildlife

Amanda Nelson
Foothill Conservancy

Patricia Puterbaugh
Lassen Forest Preservation Group

Matthew Sayles
CalWild

Greg Suba
California Native Plant Society
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Don Rivenes</td>
<td>Sierra Foothills Audubon Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly Warner</td>
<td>Upper Merced River Watershed Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Bloom</td>
<td>Forest Issues Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jora Fogg</td>
<td>Friends of the Inyo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cc: Mary Beth Hennessey, Regional Planning Team  
Judi Tapia, Sierra Planning Team  
Irina Ford, Sequoia Planning Team
Attachment 1: Proposal to protect roadless lands in the revised forest plans for the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests

Wilderness Prioritization and Boundary Adjustments

For the inventoried areas that we believe most deserving of wilderness protection, we prioritized areas on each forest based on their size, connectivity with other protected lands, manageability as wilderness, presence of ecosystems underrepresented in the NWPS, and other factors. For each priority area, we have worked or plan to work with interested stakeholders to modify potential recommended wilderness boundaries to exclude areas of conflict with mountain bike trails, motorized trails, and other non-wilderness uses.

The priority RWAs are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sequoia National Forest (in order of priority)</th>
<th>Sierra National Forest (in order of priority)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Golden Trout Addition (Polygon #1387)*</td>
<td>1. Devil Gulch – Ferguson Ridge (Polygon #772)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Domelands Additions (Polygon #1394)*</td>
<td>2. Monarch Wilderness Addition West (Polygon #1378)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Cannell Peak (Polygon #1384)*</td>
<td>3. Sycamore Springs (Polygon #315)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Stormy Canyon (Polygon #1408)*</td>
<td>4. Ansel Adams San Joaquin Addition (Polygon #819)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Oat Mountain (Polygon #227)**</td>
<td>5. Dinkey Lakes Bear Mountain Addition (Polygon #539)**</td>
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*Boundaries in attached maps have been modified to reduce stakeholder conflicts
**Boundaries will be modified in the near future to reduce stakeholder conflicts

Backcountry Management Areas Concept

The intent of the proposed BMA prescription is to conserve roadless lands while allowing for more recreation activities and management flexibility than is permitted in recommended wilderness. We propose using selected polygons from the Forest Service wilderness evaluation as boundaries for BMAs. See Table 1, below, for a list of permitted and prohibited uses in BMAs, and see the attached maps for their proposed locations.
### Table 1: Select Permitted/Prohibited Uses in Backcountry Management Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Select Permitted Uses</th>
<th>Select Prohibited Uses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Non-motorized recreation including hunting, mountain biking, camping, and horseback riding</td>
<td>*New road construction or reconstruction, except for minor reroutes to prevent irreparable resource damage or improve safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Off-highway vehicle (OHV) and over-snow vehicle (OSV) use on designated Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) routes</td>
<td>*New OHV or OSV route construction or reconstruction, except for minor reroutes to prevent irreparable resource damage or improve safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>*The maintenance of designated MVUM routes and construction of new non-motorized trails</td>
<td>*Forest management for purposes other than for improving threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat or maintaining or restoring characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects, within the range of variability that would be expected to occur under natural disturbance regimes of the current climatic period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Forest management activities including management of existing plantations, hazard tree felling, as well as removal and sale of generally small-diameter material to improve threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat or to maintain or restore characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects, within the range of variability that would be expected to occur under natural disturbance regimes of the current climatic period. Such activities must be infrequent and are only allowed if they maintain or improve the roadless area characteristics of the BMA.</td>
<td>*New utility construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Prescribed and managed fire use, as well as fire suppression activities</td>
<td>*Other development activities</td>
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<td>*Habitat restoration projects for sensitive plant or wildlife species</td>
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<td>*Restoration activities (such as road decommissioning)</td>
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<td>*Commercial livestock grazing</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Mining on existing valid claims</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Collecting firewood and non-timber products</td>
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**Recommended Wilderness Areas and Backcountry Management Areas Proposal**

Sierra and Sequoia National Forests (4-9-18)
Map 1. Map of the recommendations for wilderness and Backcountry Management Areas for the northern portion of the Sierra National Forest.
Map 2. Map of recommendations for wilderness and Backcountry Management Areas for the southern portion of the Sierra National Forest and northern portion of the Sequoia National Forest.
Map 3. Map of recommendations for wilderness and Backcountry Management Areas for the southern portion of the Sequoia National Forest.