



## Sustainable Forest Action Coalition

542 Main St., Placerville, CA 95667

Organization Representatives  
Laurel Brent-Bumb: (530) 621 5885  
chamber@eldoradocounty.org

Bill Wickman: (530) 283 0973  
billwickman@sbcglobal.net  
109 Cottonwood Ct. Quincy

### Participating Representation from the following:

#### CALIFORNIA

Amador  
Butte  
Calaveras  
Del Norte  
El Dorado  
Glenn  
Inyo  
Lassen  
Modoc  
Nevada  
Placer  
Plumas  
Sacramento  
Shasta  
Siskiyou  
Sierra  
Tehama  
Trinity  
Tuolumne  
Yuba

#### OREGON

Coos  
Curry  
Douglas  
Jackson  
Klamath  
Josephine  
Lake

#### NEVADA

Nye

September 23, 2014

Tom Vilsack  
Secretary of Agriculture

Randy Moore  
Regional Forester  
Region 5

Earl Ford  
Forest Supervisor  
Plumas National Forest

The Sustainable Forest Action Coalition (SFAC) is an organization that provides support to 23 counties in California, 7 counties in southern Oregon and Nye County Nevada. In addition, we also have support from individual groups in Arkansas, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. These supporters come from a large cross section of elected officials, Chambers of Commerce, Farm Bureaus, Fire Safe Councils, Timber Industry, Water Agencies, Education and individuals who have voiced an interest in rural counties with a large percentage of public lands. Most of our rural counties continue to have challenging social and economic times. SFAC works to find ways, both legislatively as well as through coordination and collaboration with the Forest Service to bring a recognition on the profound impacts that our counties, their communities, business, education, health and individuals result from the management or non-management of our public lands.

The SFAC wishes to provide information in reference to the Farm Bill of 2014, specifically to Section 8204. Insect and Disease Infestation. Specifically, we wish to address;

- **SEC. 602. DESIGNATION OF TREATMENT AREAS.**
- (a) DEFINITION OF DECLINING FOREST HEALTH.—In this section, the term ‘declining forest health’ means a forest that is experiencing—
- (1) substantially increased tree mortality due to insect or disease infestation; or
- (2) dieback due to infestation or defoliation by insects or disease.
- (b) DESIGNATION OF TREATMENT AREAS.—
- (2) ADDITIONAL AREAS.—After the end of the 60-day period described in paragraph (1), the Secretary may designate additional landscape-scale areas

under this section as needed to address insect or disease threats.

- (c) REQUIREMENTS.—To be designated a landscape-scale area under subsection (b), the area shall be—
- (2) at risk of experiencing substantially increased tree mortality over the next 15 years due to insect or disease infestation, based on the most recent National Insect and Disease Risk Map published by the Forest Service; or
- (3) in an area in which the risk of hazard trees poses an imminent risk to public infrastructure, health, or safety.

The SFAC requests consideration of additional areas specific to catastrophic wildfires and the increase and continuous tree mortality that occurs immediately after the event and continuing for numerous years after. This situation leads to additional trees dieing along State, Federal, County and Forest Service road systems. In addition, both within and adjacent to the fire footprint, large numbers of trees become infested by insects that spread from the fire killed timber that is left and not salvaged due to numerous issues. This additional insect killed timber is most often left because the agency does not have money or personnel to address additional marking, administration and contract preparation within the existing areas covered by the original fire NEPA decision. In addition, in all fire situations, the increase in insect killed timber is outside the fire footprint environmental decision or outside the fire footprint as the insects spread into adjacent timber stands. As the size of the nations catastrophic wildfires dramatically increase, the number and volume of this additional insect killed timber can reach millions of trees as well as board feet lost as a revenue source for our counties.

As specified in the language from the Farm Bill, the SFAC is requesting that you consider the addition of recent as well as future catastrophic wildfire areas under your authority for Designation of Treatment of these areas. These areas meet all of the necessary requirement specified under Section 8204 as well as 602 and must be recognized to allow the Forest Service to more expeditiously address this growing insect issue related to catastrophic wildfires, nationally. By providing all regions the ability to address this growing forest and watershed health, ecosystem restoration impact and the social and economic benefits associated with such action. The ability for use of the 3,000 acre Categorical Exclusion, as authorized, is essential for the Forest Service as well as our counties to both add these areas and provide jobs and revenue into our impacted communities. It is imperative that you consider this action under your authority.

The SFAC appreciates and thanks you in advance for your consideration of this growing national and local issue. We hope that you will add these areas to the Designation for Treatment to address Insects and their devastating impacts.

Sincerely,



Bill Wickman and Laurel Brent Bumb  
Co-Spokespersons for SFAC

cc:

The Honorable Senator Diane Feinstein  
The Honorable Senator Barbara Boxer  
The Honorable Congressman Doug LaMalfa  
The Honorable Congressman Tom McClintock