

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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September 8, 2014

Mr. Ren Lohofener, Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way W-2606
Sacramento CA 95825

Dear Mr. Lohofener:

As you know, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recently listed the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged (*Rana sierra*) frog and the northern distinct population segment of the Mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*) as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Both of these species, as well as potential suitable habitat, occur on private forestlands in the Sierra Nevada of California.

To ensure that take of listed species does not result from proposed Timber Harvest Plans (THP) on state and private forestlands, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) reviews all available information including guidance from listing agencies. Recently, Mr. Michael Bacca, CALFIRE, Forest Practice Manager requested guidance, via email, from the Service regarding protection measures for these recently listed species. The Board has identified that development of protection measures for recently listed species can significantly delay review and subsequent approval of THPs. Accordingly, we encourage the Service to work as diligently as possible with CALFIRE to provide guidance for these species.

We appreciate your attention with this matter and please feel free for you or your staff to contact us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

George Gentry
Executive Officer
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

Keith Gillless
Chairman
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

cc. Mr. Darrin Thome, Service
Mr. Dennis Hall, CALFIRE